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and

PLANS of the ROADS

THE

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WITH

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OF THE

GREAT POST ROADS,

CONTAINING

MINIATURE LIKENESSES,

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By J. BAKER,

AUTHOR OF THE PICTURESQUE GUIDE THROUGH SOUTH WALES AND THE MARCHES.

Our Posey is as a Gum, which ooges
From whence 'tis nourished.—SHAKSPEARE.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY C. WHITTINGHAM,
Dean Street, Fetter Lane,

AND SOLD BY H. D. SYMONDS, PATERNOSTER-ROW;

WHITE, FLEET STREET; OTRIDGE, STRAND; RICHARDSON, ROYAL EXCHANGE; TAYLOR, HOLBORN; RIVINGTON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YARD; ROBSON, AND CARPENTER, BOND STREET.

1802.

ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC.

THAT this work, either from its novelty or humble utility, should have received Royal Patronage, and such distinguished support, through that unhappy period when the arts most suffered, and works of brighter genius failed, claims my most unfeigned and ardent acknowledgments; for in neither of the arts exercised upon it have I even professed superior abilities. I was induced to my description of South Wales, because, during a long residence in that part of the principality, "I found many of its internal beauties were as little known, and as seldom visited, as the snow-top'd acclivities of the Alps; and my chief purpose was, that my observations might attract to the subject the attention of authors more eminent and more competent to the task*." Since that period, numerous indeed have been the Tourists who have traversed those pleasing mazes of nature and antiquity, and I flatter myself the signals I advanced were not wholly useless. I only wish some of these Tourists had been less tardy in their undertakings, as it would have saved me much unproductive labour. My work was begun upon a very expensive scale, in the days of profound peace, when the arts flourished most; their's in the midst of an exhausting war, and upon plans adapted to the temporary pressure of the times. From these circumstances, some unforeseen disappointments, the unexpected advance on printing paper, and other causes, I was disabled from proceeding farther in my first work, than a completion of the two volumes of a Description of South Wales and the Marches, now before the public; and I had recourse to the less arduous and less expensive task that is here offered to the public. In this, my first intention was only to go through a description of those roads which led immediately from London to the Principality, till a happy change of circumstances might enable me to carry on the above undertaking to its full extent; or, failing in that hope, I flattered myself my present production might be acceptable to the Subscribers to the former, in

* See Preface to the first edition of Picturesque Guide through South Wales and the Marches.

as much as I give descriptions in it of those plates of Landscape Views in North Wales, which I had published and distributed with my Letter-Press descriptions of the South. Thus rendering all the satisfaction in my power to those numerous nobility, gentry, and others, who first favoured, and have still continued to countenance my endeavours, and I already find my purpose so far to have succeeded, that much anguish is removed from my mind. And in this work, I have been encouraged with so many liberal offers from great and respectable families of engraved plates of their seats, in other thoroughfares of the kingdom. It is indispensable with the wish of my friends at large, and my own personal interest, that I should prolong it to these bounds. Should this narrative appear too trifling for perusal, or frivolous for notice, let the weakness be imputed to the ardent wish of proving to my subscribers the nature of their kindness to me, and the high value I entertain of their support; and I can solemnly assure them, that my assiduity and anxiety to please shall keep pace with their offices of friendship to the extent of my faculties, both of body and mind.

I cannot conclude without noticing some friendly communications which have been made me, which will amend some of my former descriptions, and which shall be carefully noticed in the additional Letter-Press to be printed for such gratuitous plates as may not immediately appear in the great roads, in that which will be formed for the Cross Roads, or in some other part of the Appendix which I have promised to the work. Also, those errors which I perceive to have escaped my pen in spelling the provincial and other names, shall as far as possible be rectified in an errata, and I humbly hope others will not fail their countenance of such assistance to those subjects, as may render this production more and more complete.

Patronized by several Branches of the Royal Family, and that of the Nobility, Gentry, and Clergy.

Just Published,

NUMBER IV.

OF THE

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COMPLETING VOLUME I.

AND CONTAINING

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OF THE PRINCIPAL ROADS,

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Of the Cities, Towns, Villages, Seas, Islands, Mountains, Public Edifices, and Private Buildings, as they appeared to the Author, in a Thoroughfare of from 2 to 3000 Miles; with Letter-Press Descriptions, upon fine Wove Paper, of every Subject so engraven, the celebrated Scenery and local Events connected with them, and interesting Biographical, Chronological, and Historical Anecdotes.

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The Author takes this opportunity most respectfully to notice, that the FIFTH or SUPPLEMENTARY NUMBER, on account of its unexpected magnitude, cannot be ready for delivery before the end of MAY next; for in addition to those subjects before promised in the Prospectus, it will be a Guide to many fashionable Summer Resorts upon the different Sea Coasts not yet published; and besides containing complete Sets of improved Picturesque Plans of the Palaces, principal Seats and other Buildings, upon the Borders of the River Thames, there will be Twelve Views, from the following List of Plates, selected for it. The whole of which List may be immediately ordered by the Subscribers, without any other expence than the charge of printing; and hence the tasteful Admirers of Nature, and of the Arts, are accommodated with neat Furniture-Pieces of their Seats for Presents to their Friends, and a numerous and splendid Collection of the choicest Productions that could not otherwise be obtained without great expence.

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ALSO

DIRECTIONS TO THE LETTER-PRESS DESCRIPTIONS,

WHERE SUCH SUBJECTS ARE NOTICED IN THE WORK.

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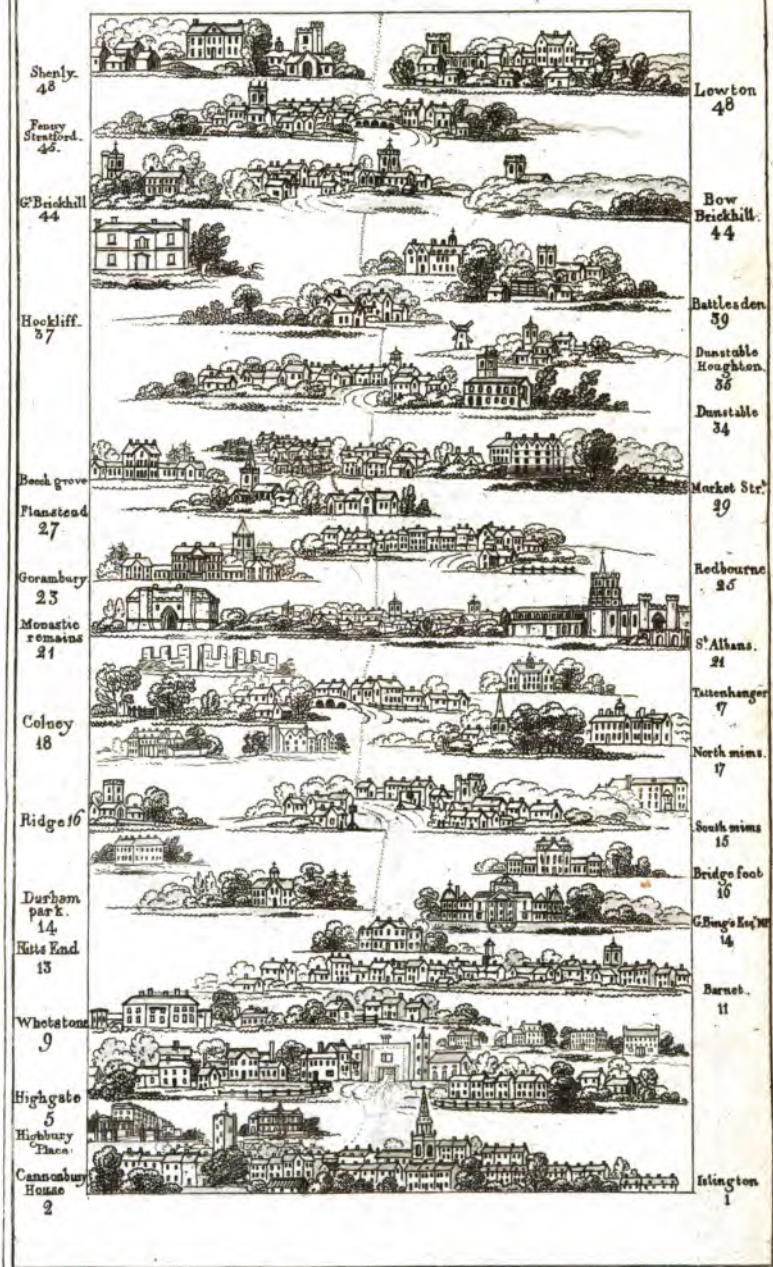
Llangollen



Published Feb.y 1801 by J. Baker

LONDON TO HOLYHEAD, &c.

THE share this thoroughfare takes in connecting the commerce of the Island, will be best estimated by stating the income from the several toll-gates which bar the various avenues leading from it to the contiguous streets of the metropolis, at near 7,000l. a large proportion to the whole product of the London toll-gates, which average at 60,000l. annually. Five mail coaches and fifty stage coaches daily pass; the postchaises, stage-waggons, &c. are too numerous and uncertain in their time of travelling for a just account, but this being the road to the most considerable manufactories of England, part of North Britain, and much of North Wales, their numbers cannot be inferior to those of any other passage in the kingdom.

Islington, the first village we reach on this road, is situated upon the most elevated spot of land at this short distance from the metropolis; it was a town of the Saxons, and was called, at the Conquest, Isendon or Isledon; it is exceedingly populous and extensive, and includes Upper and Lower Holloway, three sides of Newington Green, part of Kingsland, &c. &c. It hath a chalybeate water, which gained repute from being used by the late Princess Amelia; hath a licensed theatre, known by the name of *Sadler's Wells*, much frequented, where is exhibited that species of entertainment called burlettas and pantomimes, with tumbling, dancing, &c. &c.; here also is a cut or canal prior in point of age, and superior in point of utility, to all the projects of the same sort that have been used in this country, as it conducts from Ware in Hertfordshire, to a great part of London, a constant and copious supply of the purest waters. The church at Islington was erected in the place of an old Gothic structure that stood in 1503; and here was an ancient religious seminary, that was converted into a royal palace, used in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, now called *Canonbury House*, one of the towers of this still remains, as may be seen in the annexed plan *. The reputed salubrity of the air here is said formerly to have attracted many city tradesmen and others, who had a propensity for country retirements; but the late wonderful encroachments of the town seem to have forced most of their description to more distant stations. Islington was at one time Addison's *summer* residence; Goldsmith also had lodgings here, as well as Ephraim Chambers, the author of the Encyclopedia, of which Dr. Rees is now giving a new edition to the public; here likewise the famous Daniel Defoe died in the year 1731. He was the author of Robinson Crusoe, and other popular publications. Near the way from hence, at what is called Jack Straw's castle, was a Roman camp.

Highbury Terrace, Highbury Place, and Paradise Row, are fashionable ranges of dwellings, viewed from this road in the way to Highgate; and in the same passage are transient prospects of the splendid village of Hampstead, with the rich premises of Lord Mansfield and Lord Southampton, covering some small hills that lie together on the left. The principal dwellings that face the traveller in his partial view of Highgate, are those of the family of Walker, the Crutchfield's, Mendam's, Crombie's, and Slade's. There is a stone, in the form of a mile stone, near the beginning of the ascent to the last-named village, that is marked *Wittington's Stone*. It distinguishes the spot where, agreeably to ancient legend, the poor dejected Wittington was resting, when the Bow-bells were heard prophetically speaking his future honour. Right of the road at entering Highgate are seats of the Cope's and Dehaloo's, and near the road which leads from that village to Hampstead are Lord Southampton's and Lord Mansfield's.

Highgate is so called from its lofty situation, and a gate † erected here upwards of four hundred years since, to receive certain tolls for the Bishop of London, upon the great road being turned from its old track through dirty lanes by Hornsey, Colney Hatch, and Friar's Barnet to Whetstone, through that Bishop's private park. Here is a chapel of ease to Hornsey and Pancras. Where this stands was formerly an hermitage; near which the

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* This sketch was made near Highbury Grove; the author considering that the best station for comprehending it, with the view of the church and the village; and that he thus rendered the best interest to the engraving of the plan. The same discretion will be used through all that part of his work. The same direction will be continued to all other engravings of it; and under each title their distances from London are to be found.

† This piece of antiquity hath been taken down about twenty years; but, by a favour of Mr. Pricket of this place, the author hath been enabled to introduce the likeness of it in the annexed plan.

chief Baron Cholmondeley endowed a school. Besides the genteel dwellings I noticed in my way hither, there are others of the Atherstone's, Ishawood's, Tippet's, Ranum's, Wagstaff's, Longman's, &c. &c. London and its suburbs, with the Kentish and Surry hills, form a picture to some of the views from hence that is strikingly interesting; there are other extensive prospects over Epping Forest, Blackheath, and the populous borders of the river Thames from Greenwich to Gravesend: in the nearer views are the villages of Edmonton, Tottenham, Hornsey, and Muswell Hill; a beautiful villa of the Porker's is in the last named, and near Hornsey is the Grey's. The ridiculous ceremony of swearing the artless country travellers on their way to London, through this place, can only be attributed to the sordid usage of its former innkeepers: a pair of large horns are forced upon their heads; when they are taught to repeat a kind of mock oath: "that "they must never eat brown bread if they can get white, unless they like the brown best;" with other such absurdities, for which they are taxed a treat of liquor to the company present.

Near the first entrance to Finchley Common there appears a handsome circus of rising lands toward the north, which hold the following seats in view: the Guildermaster's, the Duchess of Chandos', Walker's, Tash's, Kingston's, Tempest's, and Warner's. Between these and the other bounds of the prospect is the village of Finchley; herein are seats of the Hawker's, Allen's, Hankey's, Drury's, Steer's, Gildheart's, and Wardle's: the Andrew's, Anderson's, and Crutchley's are left of the road on Finchley Common; the Collins's is on the right. Near the village of Colney Hatch are seats of the Down's, Lermitte's, Seaton's, and Loddington's: in this direction is also Fryern House, which was the country residence of the friars of Saint John of Jerusalem; it was upon the ancient road which passed from London to Whetstone, and was the hospitalum or inn of such road; it is now the seat of John Bacon, Esquire, and is fraught with innumerable antiquities. From the small village of Whetstone unto Weeden, near Coventry, this post-road is an improvement of the old Watling Street. Totteridge possesses a ridge of land that stretches upon a line with it upon the left. The principal seats here are General Maitland's, Mrs. Lea's, the Bowyer's, Manning's, Efhill's, and Garrow's; at Whetstone are the Neat's, Watson's, and Holdsworth's. Passing from Whetstone the wayside is ornamented with seats of the Pool's, Bolton's, Read's, and Fitzgerald's.

The villages which I have lately had occasion to mention, with others in the same distance every way around London, are of surpassing splendour and beauty to the like number, in such a space, throughout all Europe; they principally rose, and had their improvements from the nobility and wealthy merchants, whose frequent attendance at the court or city necessarily required such neighbouring residences. Barnet arose from an ancient market, called Chipping Market, being the first stage from London. It greatly abounds with inns, and hath also many genteel seats in its vicinity. Hadley is a village that joins Barnet; the church of which, on the right of the road, is made remarkable for having an iron pitch-pot elevated upon its tower, such as were ordered upon high buildings in the time of Edward the Third, to alarm the country upon an invasion. This church is said to have been erected by command of Edward the Fourth, to pray for the souls of such as were slain in the desperate battle he fought here on Easter Day, 1471, with the Earl of Warwick. A stone obelisk, near the road at this place, commemorates that event.

The villages between Barnet and Saint Alban's are South Mims and Colney. In the way to the first, the seats on the right-hand are, Crew Lodge, the Baronneaus; Wrotham Park, the handsome seat of the Byng's; Knightley House, the Adams's; Dancer's Hill, the Gage's; and Bridge Foot, the Vincent's. Dencham Park, the Trotter's, possesses one of the various eminences that beautify the prospects left of the road. Other seats, in similar situations, are, High Cannons, the Fitzherbert's, and Porter's Lodge, the late Lord Howe's. A mile and a half to the right of the little village of South Mims is a new erected seat of the Cassamajor's; and a mile further the same way (adjoining to the village of North Mims) is the antique seat of the late Duke of Leeds. Near the village of Colney is another of this character, Tottenhanger Park, Lord Hardwick's, once the Abbots of Saint Alban's. And near the last-named village, upon the left, is Shenley Hall (alias Salisbury Hall) of the ancient family of Snells. This mansion is every way secured with a moat, and its outhouses are all of that magnitude and fashion as suited the extensive worth and hospitality of our ancient *manor lords*. Besides other internal curiosities, there are in the great hall several stone medallions, as large as life, of the Roman emperors and empresses, which were brought hither from the neighbouring nunnery of Sopewell, well worthy the attention of the curious, and are easy of access from the hospitality of the possessor.

The next stone dwelling seen from the bridge of Colney, to the left, is called the Park; its proprietor is the Margrave of Anspach; farther on the same hand is Lord Middleton's. Those seen attaching to the village of Saint Stephen's, upon the left of Saint Alban's, are

the Labore's, the Smith's, and the Rectory. Holywell House, more immediately attaching to the above town, is the good dowager Lady Spencer's residence.

Sapewell Nunnery, above named, has many ruins that remain near the entrance to Saint Alban's upon the same hand. This had its first rise from two pious women building a hovel with boughs of trees, and a covering of bark, for the purposes of devotion; upon which Abbot Jeoffrey, of Saint Alban's, encouraged their zeal by founding a nunnery of Benedictines. In this house Henry the Eighth was privately married to Ann Boleyn.

Verulum of the ancients, from which Saint Alban's had its rise, and the supposed Cassibelan and Caer Municipium partly possessed a slope of land, that appears a short way from the latter. Ruins of its walls still remain; they were mostly twelve feet thick, formed of flints set in mortar. It had its present name from giving birth to one Alban, reputed to be the first who suffered death for Christ in Britain. A monastery was founded in honour of him by a king of the Mercians, as an atonement for the murder of Ethelbert, his son, and the usurpation of his dominions. Of this magnificent structure little now remains but the gateway*, and earthen tracts of its other foundations. The abbey is said to have been principally collected from the ruins of the old Roman town, and the quantity of Roman bricks still appearing in it, particularly in parts of the nave, which is judged of the original structure, confirms this report. The transept and tower, with the upper part of the north aile of the nave, are of the Norman style of Henry the Third and Edward the First. And the lady-chapel, converted into a school, was built in Edward the Third's time; other parts were repaired, or had additions in the time of Henry the Sixth, Edward the Fourth, and Henry the Eighth. The body of it is one hundred and sixty paces long, and thirty wide; the height of the tower one hundred and forty-four feet; the body sixty-five. This church was preserved by the liberality of the town's-people, who, at the dissolution, gave four hundred pounds to save it from being pulled down, and made it their parish-church. The shrine of Saint Alban once stood behind the high altar; it was richly adorned with gold, silver, and precious stones. Here is a remarkable brass font, where the Kings of Scotland were said to have been baptized. Humphrey the Good, Duke of Gloucester, who died 1440, was buried here; the body was found in the last century, preserved in a sort of pickle. The remains of many other persons had places in it, and the lady-chapel adjoining was filled with the nobles and others that were slain in a dreadful fight between the houses of York and Lancaster, and other wars that have successively desolated the place.

At Tinker's Hill, which is north of the town, was an ancient fortification called Kingsbury Castle. Oyster-hills, near this place, take their name from Ostorius, the Roman general being encamped thereon. Passing from the town through Fishpool Street, a small level is seen bounded with little hills, wherein it is said the Saxon monarchs formerly navigated large pleasure vessels, the anchors of which have been several times discovered in cultivating the earth.

Gorambury House is a noble structure of stone, about a mile and a half on the left of the road leading to Redbourn, Lord Viscount Grimstone's. Here was more anciently Gorehamn Abbey, the antique seat of the great Sir Francis Bacon. The brook Worm that for some way meanders aside the road here, was called by the ancients the Brook of Woe, and they presaged great calamity from the rising of its waters, at which times it always assumes a reddish colour, and thus the village next reached, situated on its banks, is called Redbourn. Here are several good inns, and neat houses, Baskervill's and the Delawal's. In 1135 here was a cell inhabited by a friar and a few Benedictines. The village about half way between Redbourn and Market Street, upon the left, is Flamsteed, which is described to be given by Abbot Leofian to three knights, on their engaging to defend this part of the country from robbers. Opposite this, about two miles on the right from the road, is a superb seat of the Marquis of Bute; entering Redbourn, the Crawley's is on the same hand, about the same distance; and on the left is Beechwood, the handsome mansion of Sir J. Seabright, Baronet.

Market Street is a small village, consisting chiefly of inferior inns; herein is a neat house of the Honourable Mr. Cavendish; and nearly attaching to it is the old mansion of the Coppins, called Market Cells, formerly a nunnery of Benedictines. At this place, according to Richard of Cirencester, "was a station of the Romans (Forum Diane) where was a fane and forum or portico, sacred to Diana, where a panegyre or fair, was annually celebrated to the honour of that goddess." The soil in much of this latter passage is a

* This, with the ruins of the nunnery of Sopewell, are shewn in the Plan, under the title of "Monastic Remains."

mixture of small flints and sand; the stratum beneath is chalk, which is raised for manure; nearer Dunstable the latter principally prevails; and, besides the above use, great quantities of it are manufactured into whitening.

Dunstable, so called from one Dun, a famous robber, having his den or stable here. It was also a station of the Romans, at which their two famous roads, Watling Street and Ikenild Way had their junction; it was destroyed by fire in 1213. Henry the First had here a royal palace; here was an hospital for lepers, and a priory; the friar first read of was in 1196, the last in 1525; the present church is that part of the latter building which connected the west end to the choir. In 1290 there was erected a lofty cross, at the King's charge, on account of the corpse of Queen Eleanor resting here.

The upper dress of the country that is hither passed, from London to Highgate, is mostly antient elms, hawthorns, newly planted poplars, exotic fruit trees, and garden shrubs, with a verdure of grass. Passing the last place, by Barnet and Saint Alban's, to the chalk hills hereafter approached, variegated arables every way chequer the fields; whilst the native oaks, ash, blackthorn, and holly, mingle in great portions in the foliage that fences them. Upon the hills here named, as in most lands where this white stratum prevails, the beech-wood thrives to a great abundance; the arable uplands that are found to surround this town were formerly celebrated for a fine kind of barley, from which ale was largely manufactured, they are now more used in the cultivation of wheat, the peculiar fine straw whereof employs most of the poor female inhabitants to manufacture into ladies' neat bonnets, baskets, &c. &c. At Dunstable Houghton, a short way on the right from hence is an antique seat, once Lady Miller's, now H. Brandreth's, Esquire.

This Chalk Hill is part of a stratum that intersects the whole kingdom, from the coast of Dorsetshire to that of Norfolk: the excessive steep of the road hereon, so irksome to former travellers, is lately improved by a circuitous track through some of the southern breasts of it. Castle Hill, an old Roman or Danish intrenchment, is seen upon these heights on the left; and in the levels beneath, Tillsworth and Standbridge are villages appearing on one hand, upon the other are those of Chalgrove and Teddington.

At the village of Hockliffe, which the road passes, there was anciently an hospital, with a master and several brethren, dedicated to Saint John the Baptist; near the church here, which is a small distance to the left of the road, are neat houses of Captain Gilpin and the Reverend Mr. Robinson. Passing Hockliffe, upon an ornamented eminence right of the road, is Battlesden, the ample estate and dwelling of Sir Gregory Page Turner, Baronet; on the left is the Hamer's.

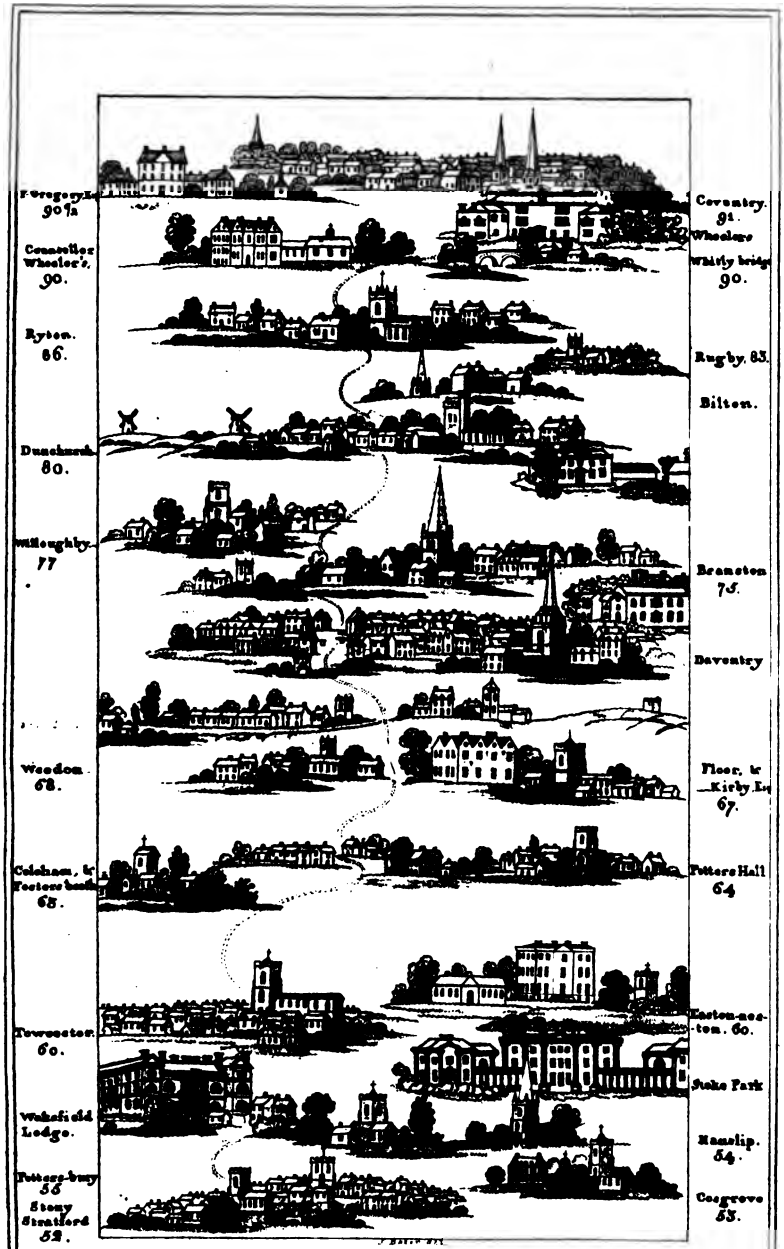
Little Brickhill, the village next passed, with those of Bow Brickhill and Great Brickhill, are found verging toward the western brow of a long chain of hills, which, like that last described, nearly point toward the west and north. They differ from the chalk hills in figure and quality, being of a dry sandy soil, every way rich in pasture, arable, and woodlands, their forms are greatly varying, and they enrich the landscapes to great distances around; at the last named are the Ponsford's and the Adison's.

After passing the small town of Fenny Stratford, the vicinity of this road seems particularly to have abounded with seats of former nobility; one was a seat of the Duke of Marlborough's; at Whaddon the Duke of Buckingham had a seat; and at Beachampton was one of Lord Latimer's. That conspicuous in the village of Shenley, which the road nearly reaches, is the paternal dwelling of the Reverend Mr. Knapp. In the fence of some pasture lands that are adjoining to these premises are large trees of the Glastonbury or Holy Thorn, which is reported by the natives invariably to bud or blow every year upon Christmas Day.

At Wolverton, which the road leaves a short way to the right near the entrance to Stoney Stratford, there is a neat residence of the Harris's; and here was also the ancient seat of the great family of Longville; its station is marked by a vast mound and trenches in the earth, within the premises of the Reverend Mr. Quartly. Upon the left is Calverton, once the Bennet's (1683) the last heiress of that name, by marriage with an earl of Salisbury, conveyed it to that noble family.

Stoney Stratford, principally one street, which is near a mile in length, hath good inns, and hath been famed for its excellent ale. At Cosgrove, on the right of the village of Old Stratford, are the seats of Mrs. Lounds and Captain Mansel, the successor of General Mansel, whose father recently fell for his country in our war on the continent. Left of the small village of Potter's Bury, within the ancient forest of Wittlewood or Wittlebury, is Wakefield-Lodge, the Duke of Grafton's; this forest is computed at 15 miles in length; it was in the Crown until the year 1685, when Henry Fitzroy, the first Duke of Grafton, was made perpetual ranger; it abounds with deer, and, until lately, those fierce animals the wild cats were discovered in it; on the right of this is seen Stoke Park the Vernon's.

Easton Neston, is seen at entering Towcester, on the right, Earl Pomfret's, the superb


Foregrove Ld
90 ½
Councillor Wheeler's.
90.
Ryton.
86.
Dunchurch.
80.
Willoughby.
77
Weedon.
68.
Coleham, & Foston hamlet
68.
Towcester.
60.
Wakefield Lodge.
Potters-bury
56
Stony Stratford
52.
Coventry.
91.
Wheelers
Whitly bridge
90.
Rugby. 83.
Bilton.
Braneston
75.
Daventry
Floor, & Kirby Ld
67.
Potters Hall
64
Easton-neston. 60.
Stoke Park
Hanslip.
54.
Cosgrove
53.

centre is all that remains of this building, the wings of which (built by Sir Christopher Wren about the year 1682) having been latterly removed, the ancient family of Fermer, from whom the present noble possessor descends, are described to have long maintained this seat with great state and hospitality; besides numerous portraits here, there is a rich display of monuments of the family within the adjoining church.

Towcester is so named from being seated on the river Tove; it hath been a fortified town, a great tumulus on the east side shews the scite of the castle, which was supposed of Roman origin; it was afterwards the Saxons, and was nearly destroyed in the civil wars; in 921 it was last walled and fortified.

To the west of this, at the village of Edgecot, was a bloody battle between the English and the Danes, in which the latter were defeated; and another was fought here between the houses of York and Lancaster, when the Yorkists were defeated with the loss of 5000 men slain.

At Stow, on the left of the ensuing stage, is the Rev. Mr. Crawly's, within the church here is a most elegant tomb, the chief d'œuvre of that great statuary, N. Stone, statuary and stone-cutter to James I. and Charles I. it is erected to the memory of a daughter of John Lord Latimer. Another such curiosity is at Norton in this neighbourhood. At Weeden, was the royal palace of Wulfere, the Mercian monarch, which was converted into a nunnery at the instance of his daughter Weiburg, several remains of this, and other curious relics were discovered in digging the navigable canal, partly fencing the place; the navigation here noticed, conveys goods from hence to the junction canal at Fazely, thence through the Duke of Bridgewater's canal to Manchester, or Liverpool, a track of 175 miles, and the other way passing through Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, &c. it joins the river Thames, near London; at Floor is an old mansion of the Kirby's, and another of the Rev. Mr. Morices.—Dadford is the small village on the right of the road to Daventry. The ancient Lords of this place were the Keynes's, now the Knightly's, who have a handsome mansion at a distance from the road on the left.

Burgh-hill entrenchments possess a large ridge of high land that is seen near the entrance to Daventry on the left; the area of this is an oblong form, near a measured mile in length, and three in circumference, and most ways protected with various trenches and ramparts; these prodigious works are judged to have been originally British, but where altered and fashioned by the Romans, for one of their great military stations; it was afterwards the Saxons, and was more recently occupied by the royal army of England, previous to the battle of Naseby, other considerable ridges stretch on a line with this toward the east and west, at other directions of the sight an undulating surface exhibits rich woodlands and productive soils, the first mostly attach to the ancient mansions and villages of the country the latter is generally laid out in feeding pastures for cattle and sheep.

Daventry, an ancient incorporated town, was part of the great possessions of Countess Judith, niece to the conqueror. Here was a priory founded by Hugh de Leycester, 1088, its dissolution is attributed to Cardinal Wolsey, who caused his emissaries to quarrel with the monks about certain lands of theirs, and causing the dispute to be referred to himself, took the designed measure of dissolving the house, and having the revenues added to his own college; the town hath many genteel inhabitants, a manufactory of stockings, and whips, and several good inns; a short distance from Daventry, on the right is a seat of the Clerk's; at Branston the Oxfordshire canal navigation unites to the one I lately described at Weeden. Branston was once noticed for a cross 24 feet high: within the church is an effigy of a knight-templar, and a memorial of William Bren, who died aged 121. Near Dunchurch on the right is a seat of the Hume's; this village, is so named from the ancient forest of Dunsmoor, where Guy of Warwick according to the monkish legend, killed the dun cow, and performed many other incredible atchievements. It possesses a rise of land that edges this forest, toward the east; thus it is a long way conspicuous to travellers; near its entrance there commences a regular avenue of elms and firs, through which the road toward Coventry passes for near 7 miles; this marks the territory of the Duchess of Buccleugh, late the Duke of Montague's.

Bilton about two miles to the right, was the possession of the great Addison, purchased by him in the year 1711, at his decease it became his widow's, the Countess of Warwick, and was, until, lately, the residence of his daughter Miss Addison. On the left is Sir Charles Wheeler's, Sir Thomas Biddulph's and the Shuckborough's. Rugby had a castle, the tracks of which may be found in the premises of Dr. Clare. It hath a free grammar-school of old reputation, where numbers of the nobility are educated; it was founded in the reign of Elizabeth, by one Sheriff, a grocer of London, who from a mean origin, by frugality and industry, became one of the wealthiest and most reputable citizens of his day. It is a clean, neat town, and hath many genteel and creditable inhabitants.

Passing the small village of Ryton, the placid river Avon is found making its way from its source, near Naseby, for Warwick, Stratford, Evesham, and its influx with the river Severn, at Tewkesbury. Baginton-Hall, the Bromly's, is seen from hence to the left; and within view of Coventry are the antique seats of the Wheeler's, the Inges, and that of the Gregory's.

Coventry is supposed to have been a British station; in early times, there was a castle south of the town, at what is called the Park, which was the residence of the earls and kings of Mercia. In 1355 the town was protected with walls, built with money raised by taxes. They were of great strength and grandeur, and furnished with 32 towers, and 12 gates. In 1661, most of these gates were pulled down, as a punishment to the inhabitants for shutting their gates against Charles I. but that king being afterwards repulsed by the citizens, the town was again garrisoned by the parliament.

It is said to have had a convent in 1016, which was burned by Edrick; but, on its ruins, Leofric V. Earl of Mercia, and his Countess Godiva founded a monastery; the memory of this Godiva, is particularly esteemed here for having rode naked through the town, to redeem it from intolerable taxes and burthens which it laboured under. A picture of the transaction was preserved in the time of Richard II. and it is to this day celebrated at their annual fairs. Henry III. made it a corporation; and Henry VI. bestowed on it many privileges. St. Michael's church, tower and spire are of the first beauties of their kind in Europe; the height of the steeple and the length of the church are the same, 303 feet; the width of the church 104. This steeple was begun in the reign of Edward III. and was two years in completing, the body was built in the reign of Henry IV; the cross here, recently destroyed, had such veneration paid to it by former inhabitants, that 333l. was spent in its repairs. This town is greatly crowded with inhabitants, owing to its great trade in the manufacture of ribbons, &c. It is computed at a mile in length, has great suburbs, and hath throughout many traces of its age and early grandeur.

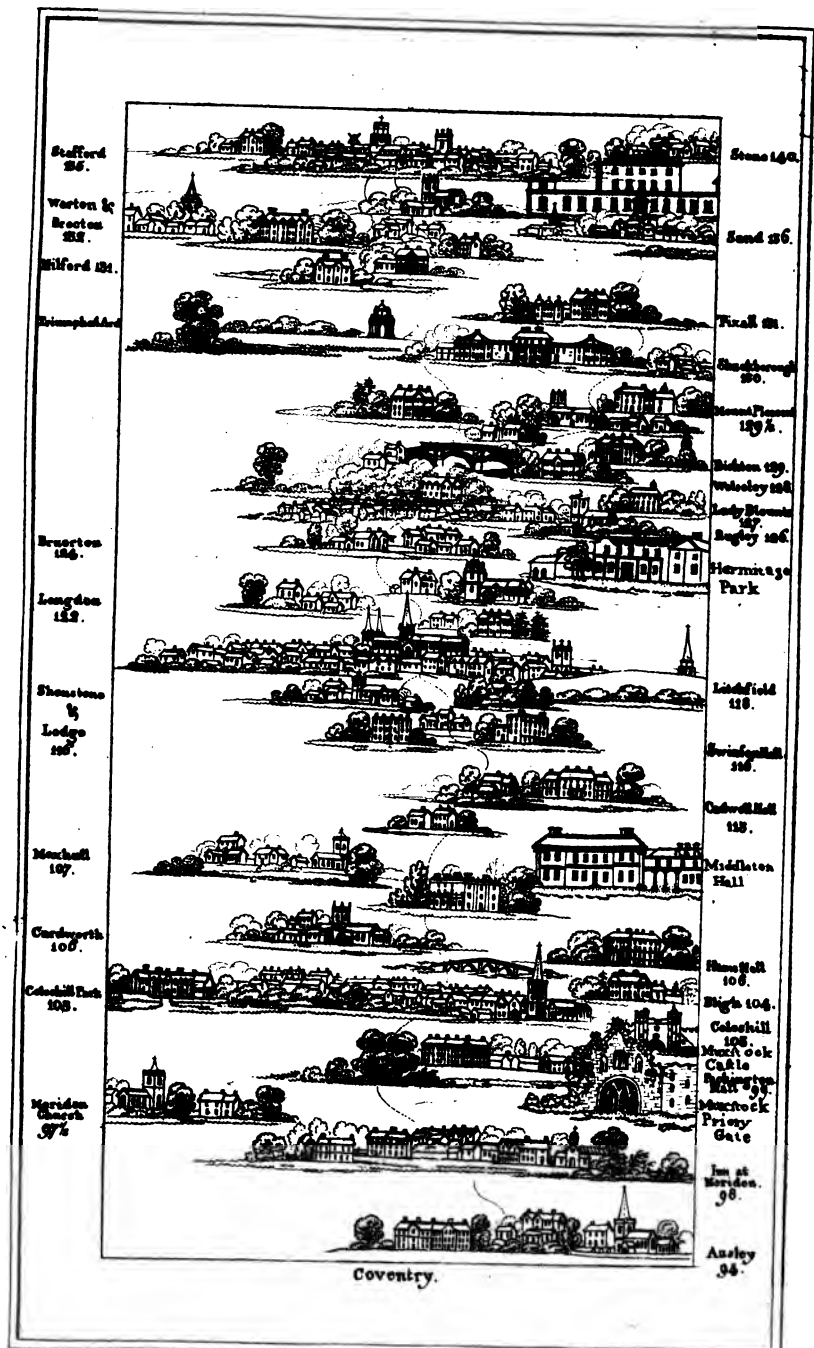
Combe Abbey is in this neighbourhood, the seat of Earl Craven. In 1150 it was an establishment for Cistercian Monks. It hath a variety of rich statuary and paintings; and is a noble specimen of ancient grandeur.

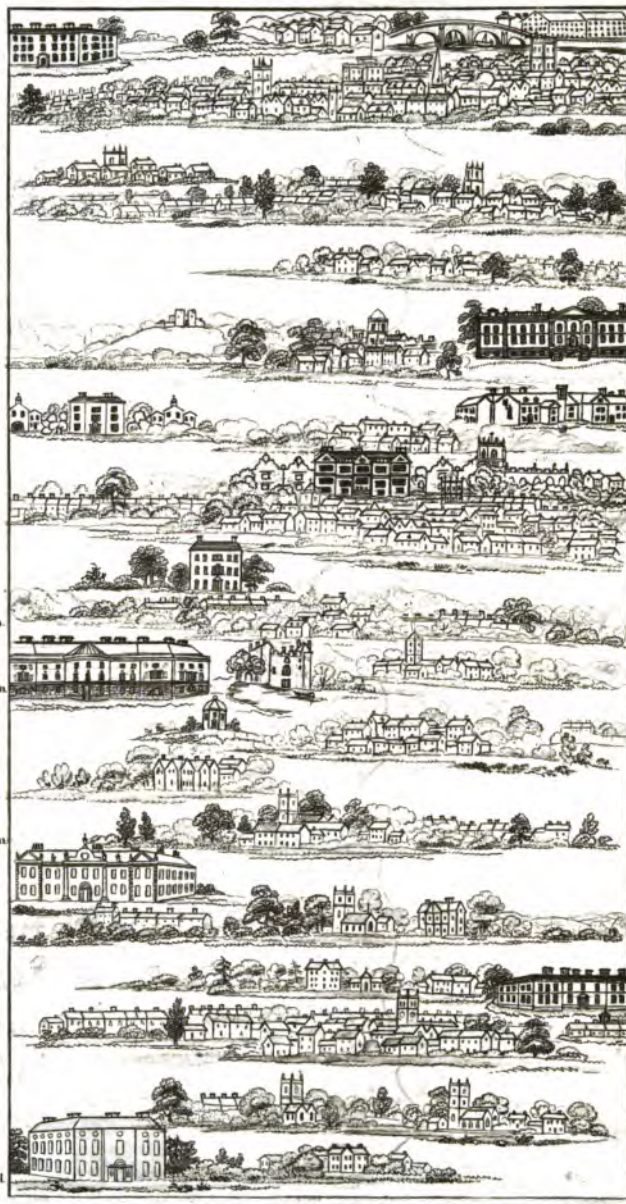
The Park-House at Allsey, alias Ausley, near Coventry, the Neal's, was anciently the Hastings, who here had a castle, or fortified mansion. W. P. Summerfield, Esq. hath a neat seat in this village; another is the Rev. Mr. Bree's. Meriden is so called from its former miry or dirty roads; here is a handsome seat of the Digby's, and one of the most extensive inns in this passage. Packington, the park and pleasure grounds of which for some way hereafter shew themselves attached to the road, is the noble seat of the Earl of Aylsford.

Coleshill was formerly a royal demesne, possessed by Edward the Confessor: the spire though still lofty, was once 16 feet higher, it was struck with lightening, and the towns people sold one of the bells for its reparation: within the church are several handsome monuments of the Digby's. Coleshill Park, the ancient seat of this family, is seen possessing a low valley to the left of the town. These demesnes from having long lost their noble dwelling, have a desolate appearance; the park is still stocked with deer; and it hath the meandering river Cole within its pale.

At a little distance on the right of Coleshill is the ancient castle of Maxtock, nearly entire, long the seat of the great family of De Clinton, now the Dilk's; and a mile and a half farther are the remains of a priory of the same name, founded in 1336 by Sir William De Clinton. Blithe is on the same hand, viewed at a short distance from leaving Coleshill. It was once the dwelling of the great antiquary Dugdale; it is now possessed by a successor of the same name. Ham's Hall, a noble modern seat of the Adderly's, also possesses an eminence in the same view. Other elegant seats upon the same hand, in the ensuing stage to Litchfield, are Maxhall-Park, near the village of the same name, the Hacket's; Middleton-Hall, Lord Middleton's; Cannon-Hall, Sir Robert Lawley's; and Swiffen-Hall, J. Swiffen, Esq. At Shenston, a short way from Litchfield, left of the road, is Shenston-Lodge, a seat of Lord Berwick's, and another of the family of Turner.

Lichfield is a place of Saxon origin, and owes its rise to one Ceada or Chad. In 656, Osway, King of this country, established a bishoprick, which contained the whole kingdom of Mercia. The cathedral, a most beautiful structure, after suffering greatly by the early wars, was raised to its present state by Bishop Hacket. It hath three elegant spires, two in the front, and the third in the centre, of vast height and fine proportion. Its inner work hath elegant sculpture, worthy the attention of the curious. Among other handsome monuments are those of Johnson and Garrick, who were of this place. Here was in ancient times a vast concourse of devotees to the shrine of St. Chad, which was in St. Mary's Chapel: the other churches are, St. Mary's, near the centre of the town, the spire of which was taken down in 1716; and St. Michael's, or Green-Hill, on an emi-


Stafford 86.
Warton & Bracton 88.
Milford 121.
Brimsfield 122.
Bruerton 126.
Longdon 132.
Shoustone & Lodge 136.
Muchall 107.
Cardeworth 100.
Colehill Path 103.
Meriden Church 97½
Stone 146.
Sand 126.
Pirall 121.
Gloucester 120.
Bidden 129.
Wolseley 128.
Rugley 126.
Hermitage Park
Liddfield 118.
Coldwell Hill 113.
Middleton Hall
Hamstall 106.
High 104.
Colehill 103.
Muncock Castle
Muncock Priory Gate
Inn at Meriden. 98.
Ansley 94.
Coventry.



from LONDON.

Published by I Walker Dec. 1801

rience that attaches to the place eastward, from whence there are large prospects of the distant country. Here was also a house of Grey Friars, and an hospital of St. John. The name of Castle-Ditch perpetuates the memory of a place of defence so called.

After passing the village of Longdon, near which is a mansion of the Cobb's, the higher parts of the road present a spacious valley in view upon the right, which attaches to the great river Trent: the heights which are found at the same time enlarging the prospect to the left, appertain to the noted forest of Cank, in the ensuing part of this stage; and in that which reaches Stafford, there is a greater shew of rich mansions, and seats of nobility and gentry, than in any other country so far from the metropolis; it is called by some the garden of England. The scenery of it is every where beautifully rich; and about the mid-way herein, where some towering woodlands echo the sound made by the waters of the above-named river, at its meeting with that of the Sowr, it is often called sublime!

Upon the first part of the passage, where a road leads from this I am upon, through Bromley, to the town of Utoxeter, is Bromley-Hall, an elegant brick building of the Lane's. On this side this part of the road are also the Eliott's, Paterson's, and the Glover's. Beau Desart is a noble mansion, possessing the first skreen of the highlands of Cank above-named, the residence of the Earl of Uxbridge, this was anciently the palace belonging to the Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry; was rebuilt, in the present elegant style, by Thomas Lord Paget in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and its grounds and out-buildings are principally improvements of the present possessor. At the small village of Bruerton is a handsome seat of the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Talbot; another is Mr. Birch's; and, passing these, also aside the road, is one of the family of Snead. Entering the town of Rugely, upon a rise of land to the left, is seen the mansion of Hagley, Lord Curzon's.

Rugely is a small town; but hath a considerable trade in its hat manufactory; and here is a wharf, where the boats of the Grand Junction Canal have some of their loadings landed and embarked. A few miles to the right of this town is Blithfield, of the ancient family of Bagot's. At a distance right of a road from Rugely are seats of the Burt's, and Lady Blount's; and near where the Sowr and the Trent have a junction upon the south border of the last named river is Wolsely-Hall, the seat of Sir William Wolsely, Bart. and, on the opposite banks thereof, is another of the Sparrow's.

At the inn at Wolsely-Bridge, a road divides from that which leads to Stafford, and passing Colwich, Heywood, Shirlywick, and Sandon, to Stone, &c. Mount Pleasant and Sandon-Hall are this way; the first ——— Broom's, Esq. the last, Lord Harreby's. Entering the road from Wolsely to Stafford, a short way to the left, is Oak-Hedge, Mrs. Anson's; and, within the beauteous space of lands, which the branching road thus environs is Shuckborough, the Anson's; Tixall, the Clifford's; and Ingestree, Earl Talbot's. The elegant seat of Shuckborough, besides possessing every natural advantage of smooth plains, spacious waters, and large woodland heights, is greatly enriched with picturesque gardening, and ornamental out-buildings, of the latter is the model of the arch of Adrian of Athens, erected in honour of the great Lord Anson; a chinese house and elegant octagon tower. At Tixall, a magnificent gateway nearly adjoins the present building which was part of a large structure built by Sir E. Easton in the reign of Henry VIII; left of this, at a distance from the road, are two seats of Sir G. Chetwyn, Bart. and near the road, one of the Lovet's. Weeping-Cross, which the road passes before entering Stafford, is so called, for being the ancient place of execution.

Stafford is said to be first called Betheney, from having been the seat of a hermit named Bertelin. It is the county town, and appears to be of great antiquity; but was never a place of great magnitude or population. It was formerly in part defended with a wall; and, at the other parts, with the waters of the river Sowr. Its first works of defence are attributed to a Countess of Mercia; others are attributed to Edward the elder. The principal of the buildings are supposed to have stood near the present bridge. About a mile south of the town, there was another building of this character which was garrisoned for the King in the civil wars; it was taken by the parliament forces, and demolished in 1644. The church was once collegiate, and there were the following religious houses; the Grey Friars at the north end of the town, and the Friar's-Austin at the south; also a priory of Black Canons, founded by a Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry. Besides its business with the road I am upon, it hath much from a road that passes through it to Liverpool and Manchester, from Birmingham, &c. It hath a considerable manufactory of shoes, good markets, and fairs; and an elegant new town-hall, designed by Harvey, a native of this neighbourhood, and the work assists to establish the fame this country challenges for its productions of ingenious men, where the sessions, assises, and assemblies are held; a large hospital for sick; and a prison for the county criminals.

The first remarkable object from Stafford to Eccleshall, is the neat mansion of Cresswell

late the Whitby's, now Lord Teacherte's residence. Swinnerton is the conspicuous seat viewed from near the entrance of Eccleshall, on the right hand. The principal estates this way are in the family of the Anson's, before-named, and the Gifford's. The natives are principally employed in agriculture, and though near the most crowded manufactories of this country, a rustic simplicity and reserve seem particularly to pervade the manners of the poor.

Eccleshall is a small clean town; its church is a handsome specimen of Gothic architecture, and here was an ancient castle, now appropriated to a dwelling for the Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry. One mile from hence is Sugnall-Hall, the Turton's; a genteel territory, growing hastily into elegance, from its recent liberal plantations of wood and other rural improvements. At Broughton is the antique mansion, and ample territory, where the heads of the family of that name long resided, now Colonel Broughton's; in the neat chapel adjoining, are many handsome monuments to their memory. Upon the next rise of land (Span Heath) the traveller hath a transitory prospect of some of the fertile levels and high lands of Shropshire, the genteel little town of Drayton, and Oakly-Hall, Sir John Chetwyn's, are the first that greet the eye, in other parts are the rich domains of Lord Kilmurry, Sir R. Hill, Bart. the Corbet's, Davenport's, Clive's, &c. &c. This heath, thus past, is the skirt of a bleak waste, which unites to it eastward; near the edge of which is Whitmoor Hall, the Manwaring's. Muccleston is the next village this way. From the tower of the church here, Margaret of Anjou is said to have seen the fierce battle of Bloreheath, so fatal to her husband, Henry VI. Bellaport is conspicuous to the left, the ancient seat of the Cotton's.

Woor hath no consideration but its inn, being the mid-stage between Eccleshall and Nantwich; and in this latter district is Staffordshire, Shropshire, and Cheshire. Doddington-Hall, with its ancient castle, and rich improvements, is worthy of minute inspection; it is in the possession of Sir Thomas Broughton, Bart. of the above-named family, and also the lineal descendant of the honourable family of Delves, long situated here. Wybunbury, seen to the right near this, is singular, in that the upper part of the church steeple, containing the bells, &c. hath immemorably hung several feet over its base.

Nantwich is a considerable town in Cheshire; the principal church is a choice piece of antiquity. Here are some salt-works, useful manufactories, and well-frequented markets and fairs. Near it is the ancient seat of the Wilbraham's, now the Tomkins's. At Acton Church, there are several monumental ornaments worthy attention from the curious.

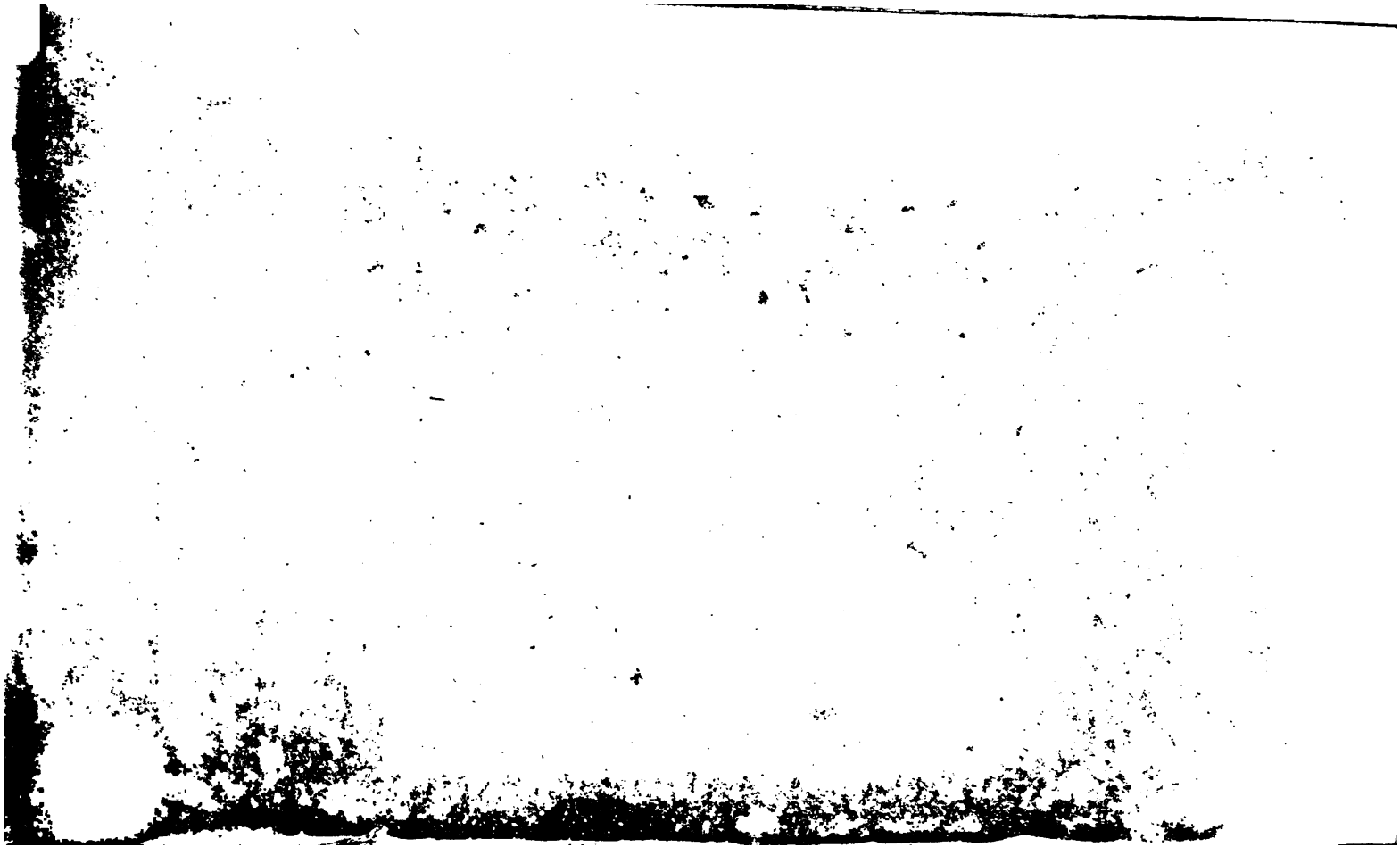
In the early parts of the passage to Chester, Picferton Hills engross the sight, left of the road; the heights seen from thence to the right, border the royal forest of Delamere; toward Chester, the country is for many miles an intire level, from which the interesting ruins of Beeston-Castle are viewed with singular effect. Some compare it to an insulated promontory seen by the navigator of a neighbouring sea. The castle was founded in the year 1220, by Randal Blandeville, Earl of Chester, and was a garrison to several different masters, the last of whom were Charles I. and the Parliament forces. It is now in the estate of the Moyston's. Tarperly and Tarvin, are the principal villages upon the track of this way; the first hath advantages in annual hunting and racing meetings that are liberally supported by the noblemen and gentlemen of the county. At Tarvin some factories are filled with the celebrated Cheshire cheese, from the productive dairies hereabouts; and here another road branches from the one I am describing, which leads to Northwich, Middlewich, &c. &c. In the first part of this passage from Nantwich to Chester, Lord Cholmondely, and Lord Dyzart, have seats at a distance on the left, passing the handsome village church of Acton, where are monuments of the Wilbraham's and Manwaring's; on the right hand, is the Vernon's; on the left the Wickstead's, at a distance from Barr-Bridge, on the right is a small mansion of the Bromley's, and the noble one of Oulton, the Egerton's. Near Tarperly was the ancient dwelling of Sir John Crew; and near Tarvin, that of the Bootle's; and at a distance on the right of this the latter is the Worthington's, at the church of Bunbury, which is left of this road, is the effigy of the famous warrior Sir Hugh Calvely, and some of the knightly family of the Beeston's.

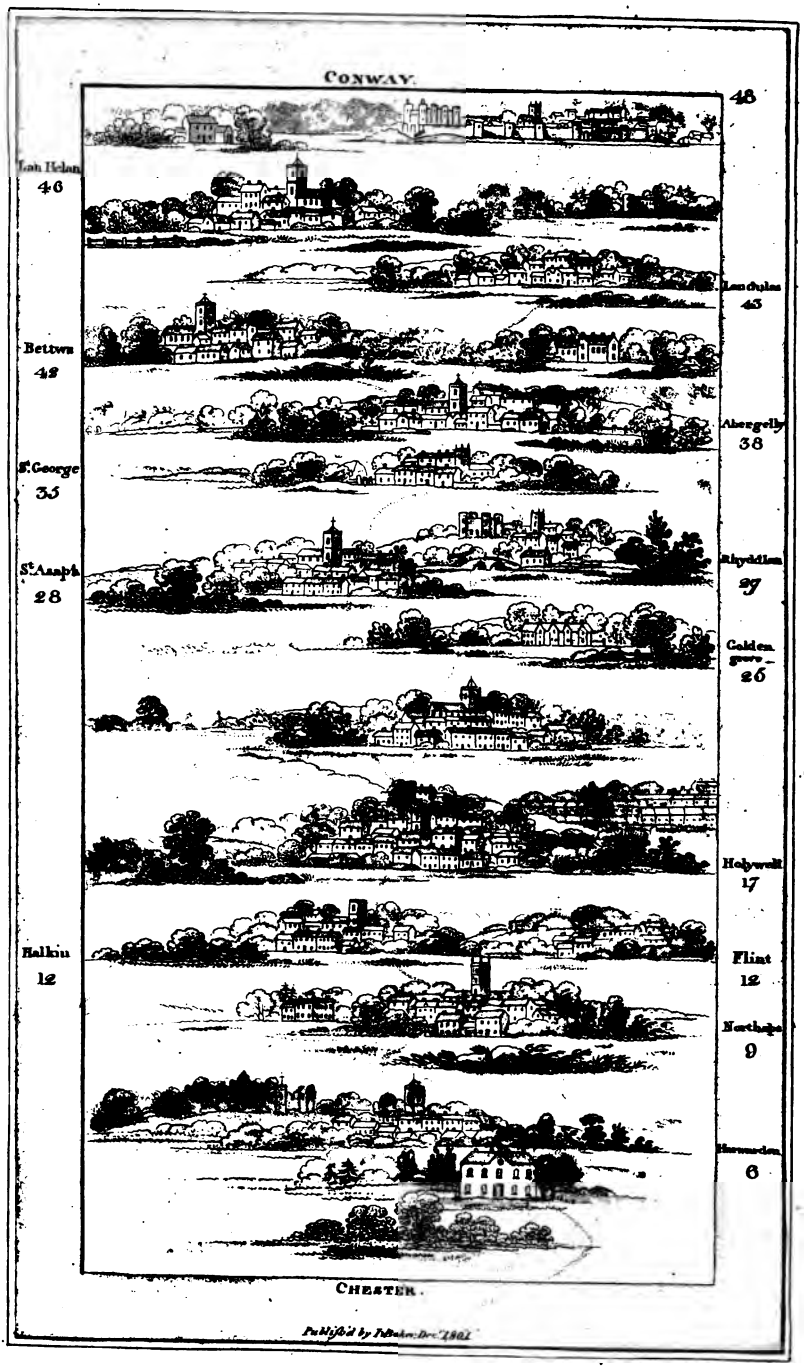
Chester is a city situated on the river Dee; it had its first rise from the Britons, and had great consequence from the Romans, who in the year 61 made it the station of their 30th legion; the labours of the latter-named people are very visible herein, particularly in the singular construction of its four principal streets; they run from its centre to gates which face the cardinal points, and are named after them; they are sunk some way below the common level of the land; each house hath two premises, and the dwellers in those parts, which face the lower carriage way, are in a different neighbourhood from those possessing the upper premises, the latter being connected by covered galleries, which form their avenues, and is the thoroughfare for foot-passengers. This place hath suffered in every age from a state of warfare, partly owing to its proximity to the Welch, and also for its conti-

HANGING STEEPLE at WYBUNBURY.
In the Possession of Mr Yoxall, —

Chester.

From a Drawing in the poſſeſſion of the Rev.d Dr. Prescott.




CONWAY.
48
Lan Helan
46
Llanrhaiadr
43
Bettws
42
Abergelly
38
St George
35
Rhyddlan
27
St Asaph
28
Golden grove
26
Holywell
17
Halkin
12
Flint
12
Nantwich
9
Harwarden
6
CHESTER.
Published by J Baker Dec 1801

nual fortifications. It hath had the courts of several sovereign Princes, and here is still a garrison. The cathedral, though suffering much from the perishable texture of its stone, is still a grand object, containing rich embellishments; and there are ruinated portions still abiding with the venerable church of St. John, that prove it once possessed an august appearance. The city walls are principally perfect, on which there is commodious walking, and a view of its fashionable buildings, its port, navigable river, and the adjacent country. At Parkgate, which is situated aside the Chester river, twelve miles below the city, packets are stationed for the reception of passengers, who travel this road in their way to Ireland. The Massey's and the Fielding's have seats this way. Eston Hall, the ancient mansion of Earl Grosvenor, is on the west bank of the river Dee, nine miles above Chester.

Before the great work of embanking the river Dee here, (which, while it improved the navigation thereof, brought several hundred acres of barren sands and bogs into a state of cultivation) the road from Chester to Harwarden necessarily made a circuitous passage upon the higher lands that are to the left of its present track. At first entering thereon, the massy piles of Chester-Castle, its bridges, walls, and those parts of the town that skirt the river, form together an interesting picture. Between Chester and Brutton, thus past, is the division of Cheshire and Flintshire. The Cooper's and the Richardson's have seats this way. Harwarden is principally the domain of the family of the Glynne's who have here a handsome mansion, and other fashionable improvements; and within the pale of these, is the ancient British castle of Caergwrly, or Harwarden. The village of Northop is only respectable in a handsome church, and having, besides this I am describing, another thoroughfare road which connects the towns of Flint, Mold, Wrexham, &c. Near it are seats of the Wynne's and the Potter's. Others this way are the Hughs's and the Humphries's.

From Northop to Holywell, the progression through a wretched road is perpetually checked by deep glens, or rather gullies, which usher the various springs from the Western mountains into the levels of the river Dee. Coming near Holywell, the traveller may catch a beautiful succession of prospects, upon the more prostrate English and Welch borders. The subjects thus viewed, are the estuary of the rivers Dee and Mersey, with the towns of Liverpool, Chester, Flint, &c. &c. Earl Grosvenor hath great property this way, in the various lead-mines which abound near the road. On the right is seen Flint castle and town. This castle was built in the time of Henry II. and Edward I. and was the prison of Richard II. and Edward II.

The populous town of Holywell is so named from having one of the most copious springs in the island, the waters of which were made sacred by the ancient monks, who formed miraculous tales of their origin and uses, suiting their influence over their credulous followers. The moderns, regardless of these fables, employ it in working some of the most useful manufacturing engines and mills in the kingdom.

Leaving Holywell, the views lose their bounds on one side, upon the vast Irish channel, and they are partially shut from the distance on the other hand by the accumulating Welsh mountains; at length the rich vale of Clwyd opens upon them in scenes of great splendor and beauty, beside numberless fashionable residences: this vale compasses the several towns of Ruthin, Denbigh, St. Asaph, and Rhuddlan, at all of which are ruinated castles, the latter a most powerful design in fortification; and, besides its being the scene of carnage between the Britons and the conquering Saxons, it was the palace of Prince Gryffyth, and Edward I. here held his parliament. Handsome mansions are contiguous, belonging to the Mostyn's, the Pennants, and Pring's.

St. Asaph hath the Bishop's palace, and a neat cathedral, first founded by Bishop Kentigern, about the year 544. The Clwyd flows within a short space of the town, and near it is another mountain river, that is the separation of the counties of Flint and Denbigh. Upon the right of the road, between this and the pleasant village of St. George, are the handsome seats of Sir Thomas Lloyd, Bart. of Sir T. Williams, Bart. and the Rev. Edward Hughes; the latter, (Kimmel) a sumptuous new edifice, and an ample territory adjoining it, wholly acquired in a few years from the proprietor's share in the invaluable profits of the Anglesea copper-mines. On the left, Lord Kirkwal, the Wynne's, Piozios, &c. &c.

Abergely, besides having a decent inn, hath accommodations, and is much used in the summer by sea-bathers from the inland parts of North Wales; and here a road divides from the post one to Bettws, Llanhelen, &c. near which are genteel possessions of two families of the Wynne's, and another of the Lloyd's. On the first part of the Mountain Ridge, which for more than a mile forms a line upon the left of the road which leads from Abergely, is an ancient Roman camp (the Giant's Castle); the seat opposite this on the right (Gwrch) is the property of the Hesketh's. Hence to Conway, marine views are seldom wanting, while the mountains stretch and magnify upon them to the utmost sublimity. Entering the last named place, ancient seats are on the right, of the families of the Moyston's, Williams's, the ruinated mansion of Marle; also near the river was the castle of Dyganwy, sometime the residence of several Welch Princes, the Earl of Chester, and King John.

Conway was built about the year 1282, out of the ruins of Conovium, which was five miles higher upon the river, the fortifications somewhat prior to that date, by Edward I. the latter are principally entire, and wholly surround the town; it hath one principal street directing to its two entrances; hath a few antique buildings and a spacious church; a stone within the walls of the latter perpetuates the memory of N. Hooks, who was the 41st son of his father, and himself the father of 27 children.

The river Conway, which is crossed to enter this place, is some way navigable, and divides the counties of Denbigh and Caernarvon. At leaving the town, the traveller has, for some way, lost the view of the sea, and, looking forward, the road seems entering a vast wild of mountains; that which forms the first distance is called Llangiene; passing this, the road again breaks suddenly upon the borders of the sea-coast, at the same time it opens to the eye the most beautiful and sublime scenes; at one point Penmanmawr and its associate heights exhibit their "mighty piles of magic planted rocks;" in another, over a frith of the sea, there appears the beauteous Priest-holm island, with part of Anglesea, in the likeness of portions of other provinces. The road is made, with great labour and expence, to wind the breast of Penmanmawr, looking over the sea like the parapet way of a fortress, and is sometimes 240 feet above the level thereof; on the higher parts of this mountain, connecting with other inland ones of equal altitude, are some antique fortifications and sepulchres of the ancients.

Passing Penmanmawr, some of the eastern shores of Anglesea, with Beaumaris, &c. open to the view on the right, but too abjectly stationed to draw long attention from the huge mountain scenery which continues stretching in fantastical forms and colours every way to the left. At the small village of Aber there is a decent inn, useful to those who may have occasion to wait for the sands of Moni, which at low water may be traversed to a small ferry near Beaumaris, and thence to Anglesea. Near this formerly stood the castle or palace of Lewellyn, the last Prince of Wales.

Every sensible observer admires the liberality and taste that distinguish the estates of Lord Penryn here past; much is also expended throughout his vast slate quarries, which are prosperously working amidst the vast circus of mountains a few miles eastward. The castle of Penryn, so often conspicuous, was finished by Wyatt, on the site of an ancient fortification of its name.

Bangor, like St. Asaph, hath no consequence but in having the Bishop's see, which was erected in the sixth century, by a Prince of North Wales, the cathedral, 214 feet in length; the cross aisle 96; the Bishop's palace and deanery are nearly adjoining, and the whole premises, though not magnificent, are rendered singularly neat and ornamental, from the munificence and taste of the present incumbent. Here was once a castle, and the remains of some Welch Princes, and of Bishops and Deans, lie interred here.

The most hospitable and best managed inns are at Bangor ferry, and through the ensuing course of this journey, otherwise it would seem to some intolerable, except at the seats of the Earl of Uxbridge, Lord Bulkeley's, and a few other residences of the rich inhabitants. The race of wood in this island is almost extirpated; it is mostly a flat country, and the humble ridges of the land that here and there rise above the painful level of the prospect, have generally a mean and barren look; one westward is called Paris Mountain, and contains the celebrated copper mines, named after it. Notwithstanding its present nakedness, it is represented to have been once covered with rich groves, and much frequented by the ancient Druids, who delighted in such asylums, numberless curious remains of their works being still extant. When invaded by the Romans, this island is described as very populous; their army partly passed to it in boats, while some cavalry waded to it across the Moni; the men received them in good order, while women attired like furies, and with lighted torches, ran amidst their ranks; the venerable Druids also attended, and, with hands uplifted to heaven, uttered the most dreadful imprecations on the foe; a sight so awful and unusual put the Romans sometime at a stand; but animated by their General, who represented to them what disgrace would attend their being terrified by a rabble of frantic women and priests, they advanced, and vanquished, cut down the groves consecrated to superstitious rites, and afterwards formed various fortresses and towns, many remains of which may be yet discovered.

Gwindu is the inn situated for change of horses, &c. between Bangor and Holyhead: Llangafni has a small market for provisions, and fairs for the numerous store of oxen which this island produces; there are a few other villages of small account in the way, and genteel seats of the Williams's, the Lloyd's, the Jones's, the Bulkeley's, &c. &c.

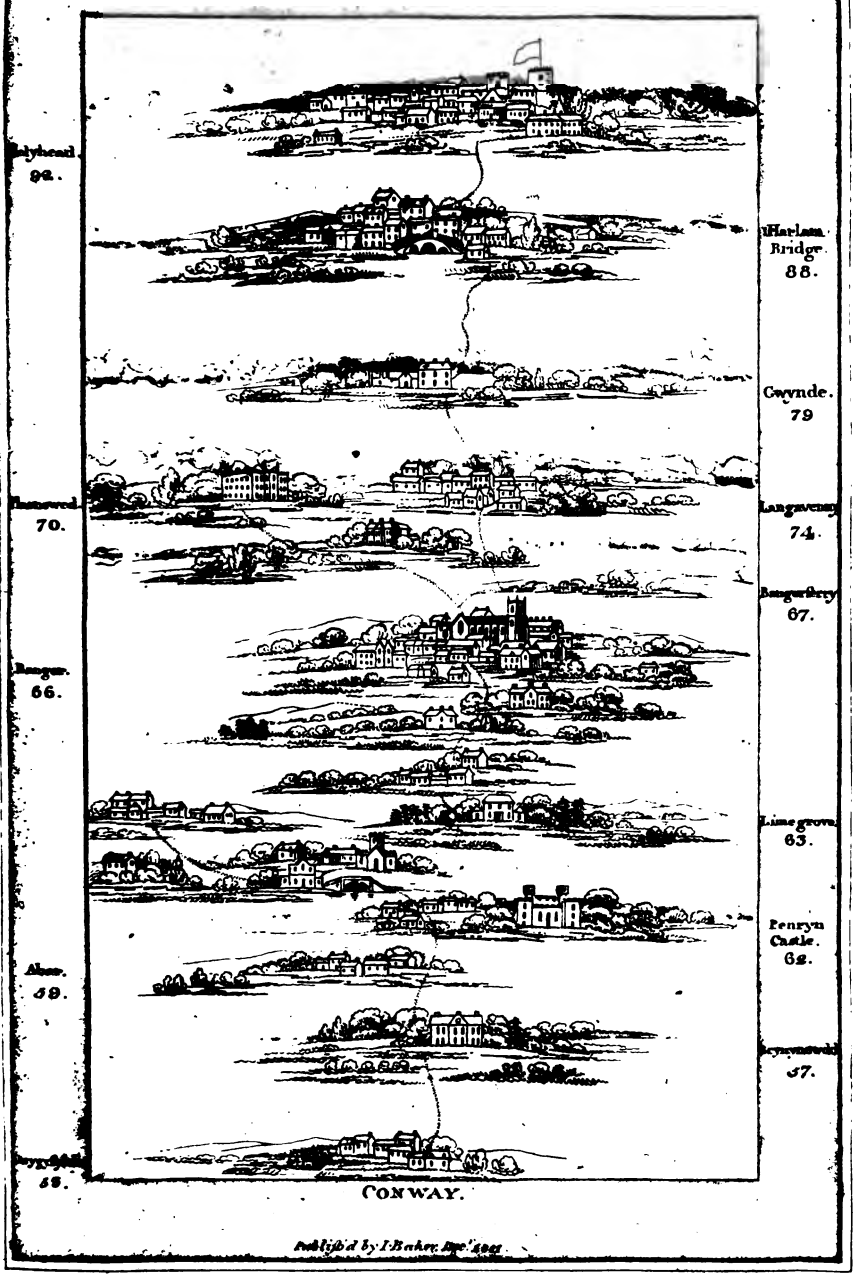
Holyhead had once fortifications, and some religious houses, but there are few remains of either now standing: it hath never appeared the chosen resort of fashion, or the mart of trade or commerce, and is mostly possessed by innkeepers, &c. together with such as work the coasting vessels, and the packets for Ireland.

Penmaenmawr.

I.Baker del.

E.Black fecit.

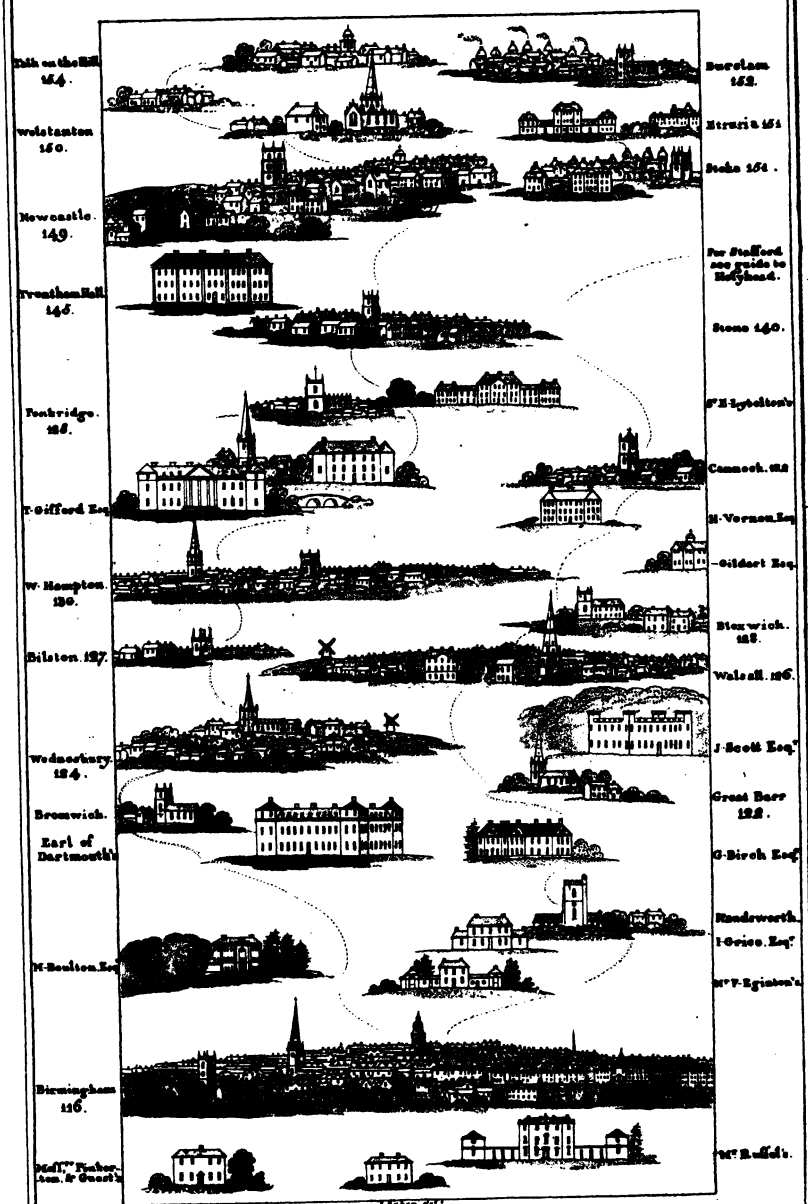
Conway.



CONWAY.

Published by I. Barker Dec.r 1804

Paris Mine.



Published July 1 1811 by J. Baker.

A GUIDE

FROM THE HOLYHEAD ROAD TO BIRMINGHAM, STAFFORD, &c. &c.

NEAR Meriden, a road branches from that I have there described passing between London and Holyhead*, which leads to Birmingham, and again crosses the above at Stafford; from this last place it continues a more northern track to constitute the great line of road through that quarter, so much used by those in the pursuits of business, to the vast manufacturing and commercial towns of Staffordshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire; as also amidst numberless intervening rural and improved scenes of art and nature, unto those "antres vast and deserts idle, rough quarries, rocks and hills, whose heads touch Heaven," which the travellers of tasteful curiosity, and the artists, so justly prefer, in Westmoreland and Cumberland.

After passing the distinguished premises of Lord Aylesford, before noticed, few improvements, except those of the husbandman, embellish the country. From hence to Birmingham, the villages near it are mostly marked with smart spired churches, which much enlivens and relieves the common monotony of the views. Near Birmingham are seats of the Lloyd's, and one in ruins, lately the residence of the Taylor's. On a near approach, this busy town suddenly opens itself in a broad view, at once to possess the mind with proper conceptions of its importance.

It is situated on some swells of land that are partly found to rise from the little river Rea on one side, and that of Hockley brook on another, whilst other parts thereof occupy the branch of a vein of rich red-coloured sand, which I shall hereafter have occasion to notice, shewing itself through the whole body of the island. Its chief support is in contriving and manufacturing all sorts of fashionable embellishments to clothing and dress, as buckles, buttons, watch-chains, seals, lockets, rings, beads, and an endless catalogue of other articles in iron, tin, brass, silver and gold, that are curiously engraved, highly polished, and exquisitely coloured to please the eye and gratify the curiosity, and it hath therefore been appositely called, "The Toy-shop of Europe;" here also are manufactured most kind of military arms, and the weighty articles that are wrought from iron into household utensils, tools of trade and implements in husbandry, which are exported from hence and its neighbourhood, in great quantities, to every nation in the habitable world. Birmingham is, in fact, but a large village, governed only by two constables and a headborough; unfettered by corporate restrictions, and free from the meanness of jealousy, she opens her arms to the whole world, inviting strangers into her bosom and encouraging industry and ingenuity of all descriptions. The effect of this enlightened policy is seen in the amazing rapid advances she hath made in opulence, population and grandeur: less than two centuries since, it contained only a small mean rank of buildings, the inhabitants of whom were forgers of iron, according to its history.† In 1780, there were 125 streets, 8382 houses, 50295 persons, which number hath been since proportionably augmented.

The toy-trade first made its appearance in Charles II; gun-making and brass-founding in William III. Old monuments of the family of the Birminghams, the lords of this place, from 1154 unto 1500, are in the old church here. There is a free-school founded by Edward VI; a well-conducted blue-coat school, a large hospital, liberal dispensary, and other public charities.

Numerous genteel edifices of merchants and manufacturers, embellish the out-skirts of the town in every direction; the most distinguished that appear at the beginning of the road from hence to Wolverhampton, is the far-famed Soho, the residence of M. Boulton, Esq. that munificent patron of the arts and indefatigable improver of mechanism. The splendid productions of this gentleman's genius and taste, have been exported as far as winds can waft, or waters carry them: the vigour of his mind and elegance of his fancy, are discoverable in the scenery around his mansion, which he has

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* See page 6, line 24, of Guide from London to Holyhead.

† Published by Mr. Hutton, of this place; and there is also an useful Dictionary, published by Mr. Bisset.

wonderfully improved, or rather created. His perseverance and address have here, in a great degree, tamed the stubbornness of nature, softened the rigidness of her features, and fertilized sterility. There is a public exhibition of all the different articles manufactured at his works here: and at Mr. F. Eginton's, whose premises are nearly opposite the above, is another, which contains various specimens of stained glass, made there, in imitation of the ancients—both these are much visited, and well worthy notice of the curious traveller.

In his passage from Birmingham to Wolverhampton, the stranger will be surprised at the unusual number of small towns and villages which partly inclose the road or are each way viewed from it; whilst the contiguous country is as remarkably thick set with the factories, workshops and dwellings of the industrious labourers; and vast multitudes are always exposed to sight, working at the various iron, coal, lime and other mines. There is a line of heights, stretching in view to the left of the road, ornamented at one spot with part of the town of Dudley and the venerable remains of its proudly-seated castle. Another central ornament to the pinnacled range, is the village of Sedgely and its notable beacon hill*. A remarkable prospect may be had from these over the eastern and southern limits of the county of Stafford, into much of Worcestershire, Shropshire, and some of South Wales: within this prospect are the several towns of Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourbridge; also the several richly improved premises of Lord Littleton, Lord Stamford, and Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward.

These lands, at a near view, have a heterogeneous aspect, broken by nature into incalculable small ridges, partly feathered with wild wood, or else divided and subdivided into small settlements of artificers, the more graceful dwellings of the land-owners, substantial inhabitants, and farming tenants. Some other spots are wholly dismantled of every native and artificial ornament, lacerated and torn by the labours of the sturdy miners, who have emboweled great part of the country.

Walsall appears in the distant view to the right of this stage upon another range of high lands which I have to describe in my way from Birmingham through that town to Stafford. Darlaston and Willenhall are near the road on the same hand.

Wednesbury, which the road passes, was formerly fortified by Adesfleda the Mercian: at the time of the conquest it was a royal demesne; but what might once have the face of grandeur and cultivated fancy, is now converted into a cluster of poor manufacturers of gun-locks, &c. for the merchants and chapmen of the neighbouring town, whilst all the adjacent country that might have been the favourite haunt of royal sportsmen and rural swains, is wholly disfigured by the sooty legion of colliers working out those vast mines from which the great trades of Birmingham long drew their supplies. Houses have often sunk at once into these hollow grounds, and an instance is related of a waggon and all the horses meeting the same fate. These prospects are sometimes rendered more terrible from the sulphur which they contain catching fire and consuming in the earth what the colliers spared.

At Bilston, next passed, the buildings of the town may be said to inclose another mile of this stage: here are several substantial factors and traders, and there is a commodious and respectable asylum for the cure of insane persons; near unto it are also some of the largest furnaces, mills, and forges, for the making of iron, in the kingdom.

After mentioning the noble mansion and park of Lord Dartmouth, there are a few genteel dwellings on or contiguous to the way. At Tipton was formerly a seat of the ancient family of the Dudley's; and near Wolverhampton, on the left, was one of the family of Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward, sometime since converted into a large and respectable academy for the instruction of young gentlemen of the catholic persuasion, in all the branches of polite learning.†

At Wolverhampton, a noble Saxon lady, from whom the town partly had its name, founded a priory about the latter end of the 10th century; it was a collegiate, and still remains a noble edifice as the parish church†. Here was once a convent with large endowments; here is a free grammar-school, founded by Mr. Jennings, a merchant of London, the trust of which hath been lately vested in the most reputable noblemen and gentlemen of the neighbourhood. This town is only second to Birmingham and Sheffield for its extensive iron and steel trades, and hath large markets, fairs, &c.

After leaving Wolverhampton in the way to Stafford, the landscape assumes a new character, and we perceive a rapid transition from a mining and manufacturing country

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* The scite of these, besides being near the centre of England, is considered by some as the highest spot in it; the rivers Team and Trent carry the waters that spring from it to the Sea, on one side the island, while those of the Stour and Severn convey them to that which is opposite.

† A faithful representation of this is engraved, &c. and published by Mr. Paddy, artist, of this town.

to rural scenery, and sylvan beauty; green and umbrageous colouring succeed the sombre hues that have lately clouded the general picture of the places around; and instead of the lands suffering from the rude miners weapons, they yet happily continue to participate the husbandman's and the herdsman's fostering care. Byshbury and Gastlier are villages found aside this road: a neat house of the Horton's, one of the Gough's, and the ancient mansion of Whitgreave, which is rendered notable for concealing a royal guest, King Charles II. after his fatal battle of Worcester.

At about five miles travel, some coppice woods, judiciously stationed, mark the premises of Chillington-House, the handsome mansion of the old and reputable family of the Gifford's. The next handsome seat and premises, seen from the Four Ashes, on this road, is the Hon. E. Monkton's, M. P. Still farther, on the same hand, the spire of Brewood church sometimes catches the eye of the traveller: it is a small market town, where in Richard the First's time, was a benedictine nunnery, dedicated to the Virgin Mary: here is a good Latin grammar school, under the management of the Rev. Mr. Harris.

At Penkridge, the next small market town in this thoroughfare, according to Camden, there was once a Roman station, from whose ruins the town hath arisen; it hath a handsome old church, once collegiate, and dedicated to St. Michael. A few neat houses, and an inn for the change of horses, &c. at this place. The scenes of the country again shift, and the late level surface is agreeably swelled into pleasant banks and ridges, that border the placid and verdurous banks of the river Penk; over those on the right appears the wide shapeless pasturage of Cannock, or Cank-wood, which is highly conducing to the picturesque effects of the view, for the broad neutral tints with which it is commonly clothed, give additional spirit and animation to those parts of the picture nearest the eye.

Dunstan and Acton, are small villages that are passed in the way between Penkridge and Stafford. On the ornamented hill left of this and near Stafford, anciently stood Stafford castle, once the seat of the Earls of Stafford*. In the passage from Stafford to Stone, Marston chapel is an object on the right of the road, and near the end of the stage it passes the old seat of the Weld's, and modern one of W. Tennant, Esq.

From BIRMINGHAM by WALSALL to STAFFORD, &c. &c.

THERE is another road of considerable use, besides that last described, which passes from Birmingham to Stafford by way of Walsall; this turns from the first noticed, about a mile from the town; near it are seats of the Wall's, Watts's, and Mitchell's; and near the village of Handsworth, are the Grice's, Lane's, Wallace's, Reynold's, Spencer's, Hawkin's, and Weatley's; the Dickson's and Birch's are on the left: after three miles travel this way, near Barr village, a mile right of the road, is one of the Scott's, called Great Barr; at both these last mentioned seats, all the agreeable advances made by nature to the favoured proprietors, such as the beautifully formed land, the best selection of wood, water, pleasant soils and herbage, are turned to the best account by their superior taste and industry; on the borders of the park attached to the latter seat of Great Barr, appears the majestic Barr beacon,† which was evidently connected with that I named at Sedgley, on which large lights were anciently elevated to prevent hostile surprise and summon assistance in the hour of peril; emblematical of happier days, it is now triumphantly wreathed with waving birches, firs, and other evergreens, and on particular festivals, its liberal owner causeth an union flag to float conspicuously over the whole.

The elevated situation of Barr village, also affords the traveller an excellent opportunity of surveying a great portion of the county of Worcester and into much of the county of Warwick. In this pleasant and healthful village, are several neat dwellings, and a very considerable school for the board and education of the youth of the neighbourhood.

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* For other account of this and the engraved sketch of the town, see page 7 and plan 3, in Guide from London to Holyhead.

† Roman or Saxon station. See Appendix.

The sketch of Walsall for the plan, is taken near the entrance to it, from which view only a portion of that populous town appears in sight, the principal streets thereof being upon a descent of land which faces the traveller as he is entering it from Stafford; it is near the border of the river Tame; the church is a very ancient structure, large and magnificently finished; the principal manufactories here are in saddler's ironmongery and other articles for that trade, with some of those branches before enumerated at Birmingham. Perpetual inequalities constantly mark the face of the country all the way through this last stage, and give a double grace to the universal improvements thereon.

Bloxwich, and other small vills, alternately inclose the road between Walsall and Cannock, or Cank, which are much inhabited by the colliers employed in the great coal-mines of the country and poor artificers. The principal seats are an ancient one, half a mile to the right, of the family of Gildart's, and a noble modern seat of the Vernon's, on the left.

Cannock, or Cank, is a neat little town, so called from its situation upon the vast wild called Cank-wood, over which the road passes for several miles in its way from hence to Stafford. From some of the heights thus passed, there are most commanding views over the northern parts of Staffordshire, some of Shropshire and Cheshire, whilst the tract of country I pursued from Wolverhampton to Stafford, is completely overlooked from it; of the subjects I there described, the town of Penkridge and the premises of Sir E. Littleton, Bart. are the most conspicuous. This road, at the village of Weeping Cross, again falls into that I described between London and Holyhead.*

Stone had its name from a heap of stones thrown up by the Saxons, as was their custom, to perpetuate particular circumstances; they were raised in memory of a murder committed by Wolphere, King of Mercia, on his two sons, for embracing Christianity; here is a grammar school on a good foundation; and several remains of antiquity are at Darlaston, near this place; it hath much advantage from the navigation, and the junction of several roads; hath good inns, substantial traders, and well frequented fairs and markets.

The road which leads to this from Wolsley, before noticed†, exhibits, in all its way to the town, a rich vicinity, consisting chiefly of cultivated up-lands, wood-lands, and water scenery; it is besides embellished with numberless decent dwellings; and this agreeable variety also appears from hence to Newcastle. Near to the vill of Barlaston, thus passed, are two handsome seats of the Jervis's and of the Mills's; another of the Kent's is at a distance from it. On the right, near to the vill of Trentham, is a view of Trentham Hall, the Marquis of Stafford's; this is one of the richest landscapes in my present travel; imperial groves every way crown the united hills in the park and rides above, whilst the finest shrubs, pasturage, and sheets of water, interlay the lovely vales beneath; except the portion in the annexed plan, all other parts of the house are concealed from a view of them this way, by the parish church of Trentham and a thick plantation that is adjoining. There was an ancient nunnery founded here the latter end of the 7th century; and Henry I. on the same spot, erected a cell for the Augustine monks. From this vill the noble Marquis above-named, takes his title of Viscount.

A road turns to the right of that I am upon between Trentham and Newcastle, which, by a small delay to this journey, traverses the vast earthenware-manufactory for which this country is celebrated, and which returns again to the principal one in the next stage.

Newcastle-under-line, a town of considerable importance, had its name from a castle now decayed, built in the reign of Henry III; it was so called *new*, to distinguish it from an old castle, which stood at Chesterton, a village near this; and Under-Line, from a branch of the river Trent so named. It hath much trade in hat-making; other concerns have been lately established for the manufacturing of cotton goods, &c. &c. Much business is drawn to it through the medium of its large markets and fairs, from its contiguity to the potteries, just named, and it is much used as a resting place by travellers that journey through it. It has a most stately towered church, a neat town-hall, some commodious streets and dwellings; was incorporated by King Henry I, and sends two members to Parliament.

Thoughout my direction in the potteries, it is for nine miles almost a perpetual village of workshops, burning kilns, warehouses, and dwellings for those employed in them. Stoke, Lane-end, Hanley and Burslem, are the places where the trades dependent on them and the inns mostly abound, and at each is a weekly market.

This great source of our commerce and wealth, is represented to have had its rise from a few straggling workhouses, occupied by some poor people that were employed in making the most common utensils for culinary purposes, which they here manufactured from the coarsest clay found in the neighbourhood: its greatest advances to the perfec-

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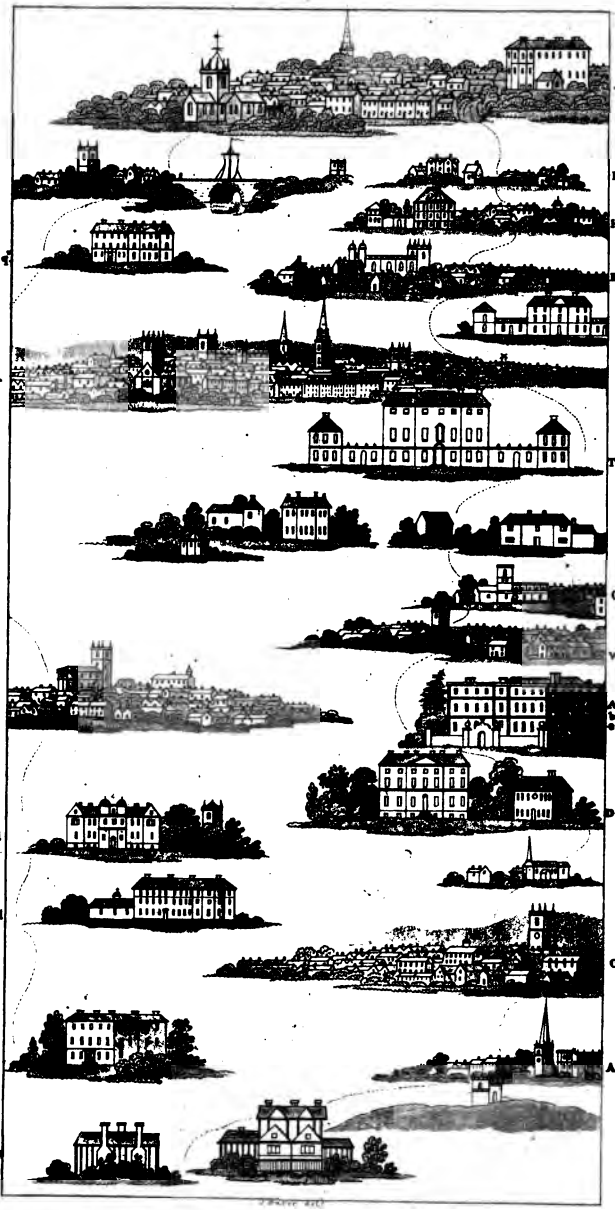
* See page 7, line 33, of my Guide to Holyhead.

† Page 7, plate 3d, in Guide to Holyhead.



Published July 1818 by J. Baker.

tion it now boasts, were made under the auspices of Mr. Wedgewood; and hath had other great improvements from the united genius of several of the present proprietors; among whom may be reckoned the names of Wood, Brierley, Caldwell, Spode, Turner, Sandford, &c. &c. and it is a fair presumption, there is not a prince or subject of fortune and taste in any state where our commerce extends, who doth not retain in his cabinet a memorial of the genius and industry of each. Countless fashionable dwellings of those proprietors, at every view present themselves throughout this busy country, the whole population of which hath been estimated at 10,000 persons: its factories, at 141; in each factory there is reckoned to be employed 100 persons, whose labour is rated at 1000 dozen of different kinds of ware per week; of this, five parts in six are calculated to be exported, and when we add to this consideration that nearly all the articles of cost used in it are native productions, it must be concluded few have greater claim to the applause and gratitude of their country, than those who have thus founded, fostered and improved those valuable works. This road again unites to the principal thoroughfare near Laughton Hall and the Red Bull inn. Continuing the great thoroughfare from Newcastle, two seats are on the left, of the Gresley's and Snead's; near the neat little village of Woolstanton, is one of the Moreton's; the Gilbert's and Cardel's have other seats this way, on which is also a continued succession of little villages that are mostly inhabited by the colliers and those concerned in the minor trades of the potteries, brick-makers, &c.

At the village of Talk-on-the-Hill, the traveller is lifted to a rich view of a new country, for from the highest part of this place, in clear weather, there opens to him toward the west, one of the greatest levels of the island; it is principally in Cheshire; its termination is the hills on the north border of Shropshire and Wales, on one side, and the heights I have to describe, attaching to the forest of Delamere and those of Lancashire, on another.

Near Talk-on-the-Hill, there is a separation from the direct way to Manchester, leading more westward; and a short way farther, near Laughton Hall, there is another; both of which, being greatly used by such as make expeditious journies through this country to Knutsford, Middlewich and Northwich, in Cheshire, and to Warrington, Prescot and Liverpool, in Lancashire, I shall take occasion to describe after I have proceeded to Manchester with my present direction.

Passing these cross-roads near Laughton Hall and the Red Bull inn, the first object that draws the attention, is a remarkable range of indented heights that are on the right, called Molecop, from this the first springs arise that form the great river Trent; the castelated building which ornaments the crest of it, was latterly erected as a summer shelter to such as may journey thither for the pleasure of its vast prospects and the healthy breathings of its rarified air. The ancient building which appears next in my plan, is an old seat of the family of Moreton; in the open court, within the square of this building, there are most curious carvings in wood, part of which contain this inscription: "This window where made by William Moreton in the year of our Lord MDLIX." Farther, on the same hand, are seats of the Cartwright's, and another of the Acre's, late the Powis's.

The church of Astbury, which is rendered remarkable from the spired steeple being separated from the body of the building, is passed close to the road; this is a noble structure, and being the mother church to Congleton, it hath several good monuments of the ancient inhabitants of that town, and the neighbourhood around it. On the left, before entering Congleton, a noble modern pile of building is in view, the seat of the Shackery's. The vast ridge of Molecop hath, all this way, continued sustaining the fullest interest in the prospects of the country. Near Congleton, other stately mountains successfully interfere in the landscape, pleasing characteristics of the northern edge of Staffordshire and much of the south and east borders of Derbyshire adjoining it.

Congleton is supposed by some to have been the Candato of Antoninus, first inhabited by the Cangi, from whom they suppose the town had its name; it is situated mostly upon a slope or ridge of land that rises from the south side of the river Dan; it hath a good inn for carriage passengers and several inferior ones for travellers in trade and such as frequent its abundant fairs and markets. The church is a handsome structure, of little age, and ornaments the higher parts of the town; on these are also some good buildings of the gentry, and merchants concerned in the silk-twist and other manufactories of the place.

The houses seen at rising the hill which leads from Congleton in the way to Winslow, are those of the Johnson's and Melbourn's; others that are next approached, are the Goamer's and the Howard's; and from hence, passing Marlin's chapel, the handsome premises of the Thornicroft's and Hibert's, are partially seen to the right of the road; Copthorn is the name of the residence of the Davenport's, whose improvements so highly ornament the way; and the neat one within Alderly park, next approached, is

the temporary residence of one of the family of Sir John Stanley, Bart. proprietor of the premises.

The mansion-house of Alderly (the sketch of which appears in the plan as it was presented me by that gentleman) fell by an accidental fire, a few years since, and hath not yet been replaced; the deer-house, much of the wood, and other ornaments to these extensive premises, were erected by the present master: among the groves that shelter the upper lands of the park, are beech trees of such a gigantic size, as often arrests the attention of travellers; also from the extremity of these bounds, upon some ornamented hills that face the west and north, in clear weather, there are some of the most interesting prospects of much of this and the adjacent counties.

The crowding manufactories that every way branch throughout the country hereafter passed to Manchester, so far fill the ways with the dwellings of merchants, dealers, and the meaner labourers employed therein, that it is impossible for me, either by means of my plans or other descriptions, to give a complete statement or enumeration of them; in the several parishes of Wimslow, Cheadle and Didsbury, is the greatest profusion; among these are the families of the Farrington's, Greenway's, Baily's, Wright's, Parker's, Lucas's, Robinson's, and Townly's, whose possessions adorn and encircle the remaining part of the passage to that populous and opulent place.

Manchester is an ancient station of the Romans; its name is supposed to have been derived from the British word main, a rock or stone, applying properly to the rocky base on which it stood: several Roman remains are still visible, particularly at Castle Field, or Tarquin's Castle, that was supposed to have been raised by Severus. The collegiate church of St. Mary's, is a large and splendid specimen of ancient architecture, it was built in 1422; it was made collegiate by a brother of Lord de la War, sometime rector of the parish, who dedicated it to the Virgin Mary, St. Dennis of France, and St. George. St. Ann's is another parish church, a good specimen of the elegance and taste of the last century; numerous chapels, meeting-houses for the various dissenters, ancient hospitals, and many new establishments for charitable purposes, every way ornament this extensive place to honour the liberality of its natives. Two of these charitable institutions are notable, a public school and an hospital; the hospital was founded by H. Chetham, and was incorporated by Charles II; the other, a free-grammar-school for the education of young gentlemen for the University. The trade and manufactories carried on here for cotton, silk, and other goods, are the greatest in the known world, and the advantages that arise from it to our export trades, are much greater than from any other branch of commerce this country boasts.

From the MANCHESTER and CARLISLE ROAD to WARRINGTON and LIVERPOOL.

LAWTON-HOUSE is the first subject in this way, of the ancient family of Lawton; on Rude heath, next passed, are families of the Bootle's and one of the Broughton's; near which is a large salt-work belonging to the latter family. At this place there is described to have been an asylum for prisoners, where they were permitted to remain a year and a day; but this privilege being abused, it was taken away.

Church Holm, or Holmes Chapel, is situated near the course of the little river Dane; it is a small inconsiderable town, with a decent inn: Brereton Hall, a rich specimen of the stile of architecture in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, is in the next course of the road; other neat houses are the Harrison's, the Wright's, and one of the Manwaring's.

Knutsford is said to have been named from Canute, the Dane: this is a very commodious and genteel place, with a good market, and some manufactories of cotton; also from the many genteel families which abound throughout the neighbourhood, it supports very large annual races, balls, and assemblies, and hath several good inns.

A vast sheet of water rests within view of the road at leaving Knutsford, one of the pools or meers with which this county particularly abounds;* they possess the low ground, wherein the waters of the higher lands are discharged, and wanting vent, have immemorially become these vast bodies; upon draining some of them, canoes have been found like those of the Indians of America, supposed to have been used by the ancient Britons in fishing. A handsome dwelling is near Knutsford of the Leigh's: Tatton (the

* See view of Tatton Meer Park in Appendix.

J. Stringer del.

T. Bluck fecit.

Tatton Mere Park

Egerton's) is a most noble seat, with a very extensive park. A short way from the road on the right, also near the village of Mere, so passed, is a handsome one of the Brooke's, and at High-Leigh, is one of the Leigh's.

A short way from Gobnall, an aqueduct is passed which supports the canal, before noticed, in its way from the inland counties to its termination in the river Mersey, near Liverpool.

The more western track to Warrington, lately noticed, passes first to Sandbatch, a small town, situated near where some little streams that rise in Mole-cop mountain, fall into the river Dan: the church here is a very handsome structure, formed like some cathedrals; an ancient cross in the market place once contained a very perfect carving of our Saviour's sufferings in relievo. From this to Middlewich, it is a dull level road, aside which the navigable canal also holds its course.

Middlewich—most of the buildings here are situated amidst some handsome eminences that rise from the small brook Weaver; it is intersected by the navigable canal before noticed; the heights are decorated with the better buildings of gentry, &c. and are likewise pleasantly spread with gardens for the supply of the inhabitants at large; the church is a handsome structure, of nearly the same fashions as that at Sandbatch, last named; it was built about 300 years since; the parish is remarkably extensive, comprehending several townships. At Dumhall, or Dernhall, near this, Edward I. is described to have founded a convent for Cistertian monks.

Strange conjectures are formed as to the production of the vast salt strata hereabout abounding; some of which are from 20 to 30 yards thick: some have thus strangely accounted for them: "Upon the rupture of the strata of the earth, islands of these salt rocks floated in the flood, and so, for a considerable time, might be tossed to and fro, undissolved, in that general confusion, and upon the subsiding of the water, might settle with the rest of the mines and minerals, and so have continued in the posture we find them ever since." These rocks are dissolved, and afterwards, by evaporation, are made into salt fit for culinary uses: it is observed, that such a quantity of water will only dissolve such a quantity of salt; nor will the salt, after dissolution, again precipitate. The sight of these subterraneous caverns, from whence the rocks have been drawn, cannot but give pleasure to the curious traveller. After descending to their depth, you are suddenly struck with a view of what we may compare to a subterraneous cathedral, the roof of arched crystal, all the pillars, &c of the same materials, transparent and glittering with the reflection of the lights which the labourers use to go on with their work. The brine is drawn from the surface of these rocks, which are from 50 to 70 and near 100 yards below the surface of the earth.

The way from Middlewich to Northwich, is the track of a Roman way: the seats contiguous to this are first the Leicester's and the Frances's; also near the road, on the first part of the way, is one of the Topin's; at a distance, on the right, at the village of Denham, next passed, are the Bridges's and Tomkinson's; and on the left, near Northwich, is one of the Howard's. Vale Royal, an ancient seat of the Cholmondeley's, is a short way to the left of the road, on a pleasant bank of the river Weaver, within a track of country called the Vale Royal of Cheshire: its principal buildings are the remains of a stately monastery, upon which Henry III. expended 32,000l. besides other gifts to it from his Queen; yet it was not finished until the year 1330; its first inhabitants were the monks of Darnhill, with others from the abby of Dore, in Herefordshire: the church was consecrated by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Bishop of Durham, and dedicated to Christ, the Virgin Mary, &c. At the dissolution, its revenue was valued at 518l. 7s. 6d. The present possessor, J. Cholmondeley, Esq. M. P. for the county, hath lately rendered great improvement to the face of the building without (as is too often the case) injuring its antique character.

Delamere forest is a short way to the left of this; it hath been formerly noticed for producing the best red and fallow deer for the King's table; and within this forest the Mercian lady, Ethelfled, built a city called Eudesburg (the happy town); its only remains are the present inheritance of the chief forester. The numberless large sheds and temporary buildings that crowd the vicinity of the towns of Middlewich and Northwich, inclose the pits where the brine is raised, and at which strangers may be let down to the mines. It is computed 200 vessels of the same construction of that seen in the annexed sketch of Middlewich, are used in carrying the produce of these mines to Liverpool.

Northwich is an irregular built, crowded and busy town, with a populous vicinity, and having the habitations of the salt manufacturers and merchants, here are consequently many good buildings. The journey from hence to Warrington, is through a pleasant and elegant country, which at times affords good distant prospects; here are two fashionable premises of the Barry's, the first of these appears at a distance, on the left of the road, over a vast meer or lake of several miles in circumference; the second is close to the road a short way beyond it.

Warrington is situated aside the river Mersey, one of the most considerable rivers of the island, over which is a stone bridge that was partly pulled down in the last rebellion, to interrupt the progress of the rebels: it is a large, populous, old built town, with intermediate improvements; its trade is principally in the sail-cloth manufactory, where many thousand pounds are annually returned for that article only; there is, besides, a glass-manufactory, large breweries, sugar-houses, copper-works, cotton trade, and other great concerns: it hath a large handsome church at the edge of the town, entering it from Liverpool, (where I made my sketch for the engraved plan), an elegant chapel of ease, and several meeting-houses: it is not incorporated, but governed by a Justice Leet. Near it was a priory for Augustine friars, founded about 1379. At Winwick, near this town, Oswald, King of Northumberland, had a palace, of which nothing remains but a name.

While ascending some high lands which the road passes at leaving Manchester, in the way

From MANCHESTER to ROCHDALE, HALIFAX, BRADFORD, &c. to LEEDS,

the traveller will observe, bordering hereon, seats of the Reading's, Whitworth's, the Rev. Mr. Elliston's, Miss Livesey's, and Greenhill,* S. Jones's, Esq. At Cheetham inn, where is the utmost rise of the road, there are public gardens and a bowling green, the resort of the Manchester gentlemen for the usual summer amusements and relaxation from business: other seats in this pleasant neighbourhood, are the Grael's, the Scoul's, and the Phillips's, with Broughton-Hall and Cheetham-Hall, seats of the ancient family of the Clowes's. A road here separates from the thoroughfare I am now upon, that leads to the manufacturing town of Berry, on which are seats of the Scoul's, Berry's, Roberts's, and the Rev. Mr. Lion's.

On the way from hence to Rochdale, besides the highly-finished stone-fronted mansion of Lord Grey de Wilton, the elegant one of Lady Levers, and Lord Suffield's, near the village or town† of Middleton, are seats of Sir Watts Horton, the Hopwood's, and the late Dr. Ashton's. On the way hence to Rochdale, is Castleton-Hall, late the Cheetham's, just named; nearer that town, are those of the Smith's, Whitworth's, Walmesley's, and Holt's; also at some distance thence, is Belfield-Hall, formerly the Butterworth's; and at Milnrow, near this, was the dwelling of the deservedly celebrated Timothy Bobbin, poet, caricaturist, &c. &c. &c. The banks of the river Roch, for a great distance from the town, are also ornamented with dwellings of the rich and tasteful families of the country, of which may be noticed the Vavisore's, Tomlinson's, Dearden's, Hamer's, Shuttleworth's, and Smith's; among these names, and such as are mentioned at entering Rochdale, are some that are particularly estimable for having latterly rendered remarkable increase to the wealth and population of this neighbourhood, by their meritorious exertions in the woollen manufactories. The first buildings of the town of Rochdale, appear to have been confined to the banks of the river Roch; its latter improvements (by much the largest portion of the place) extend, by different directions, upon the heights contiguous to it; it hath large fairs and markets‡, several convenient inns, and respectable retail traders of every description: the church attaches to the elevated part of the town which is passed at entering it from Manchester, besides which, there is a chapel, methodist, presbyterian, and baptist meetings: its manufactories have great advantage from the canal I shall have hereafter occasion to notice, which passeth goods from them to Hull—from the many useful streams that intersect the country, and from the coal-mines that interlay it.

Leaving Rochdale, are seats of the Holt's, Smith's, Lancashire's, Col. Entwistle's, and Captain Hamer's; and at a distance, left of the two latter, is Healey-Hall, the Chadwick's. Near the vill of Littlebro', or Littborough, here passed, are handsome seats of the Neal's and Bewick's; and from this place a bye-road may be taken by Todmorden and Ebdon Bridge, again to join the main one near Leeds, and which will amply repay the traveller for his deviation; for in this short round is a greater succession of natural and artificial beauties, than are surveyed in so small a compass in any journey; the shaded streams of the meandering river and the artful lines of the navigation, are

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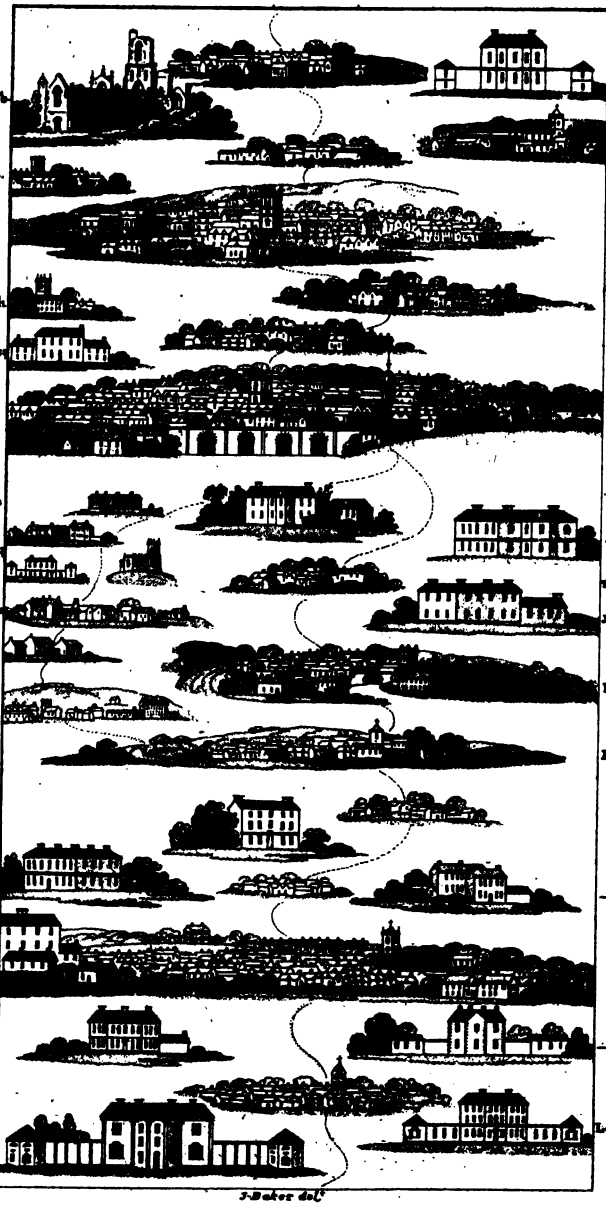
* See view of Greenhill in Supplement.

† A neat market-house hath been lately erected here, and a weekly market partly established.

‡ The market-day hath hitherto been erroneously published Tuesday instead of Monday.

GREEN HILL.

To S.r Jones Esq.r this Plate is inscribed by his obliged Serv.t J. Baker.


Kirkstall Abbey. 226.
Stanningly
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Bradford 220.
Hillinsworth 215.
—Mitchel Esq 214
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Mr T. Dyson's
Mr D. Dyson's.
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—walmsley's
Lady Lovell
J. Baker del.

pleasant guides throughout this charming glen. Many newly established cloth manufactories, and many delightful dwellings intermediately chequer the more wild and romantic beauties. The chief proprietors of these possessions are the Rowden's, Knole's, Edmondson's, Currer's, Cook's, Dyson's, Milne's, Sutliff's, and Fawcet's.

Looking from Littlebrough, towards the north and south, there appears a large circus of highlands, here called moors. Within this reach of the eye, downs, bourns, and dells of all characters every way unfold themselves, until the celebrated height is obtained of Blackstone-edge. Other novel, and admired prospects now arrest the attention, for most of the last described forms are subdued by the distance of the prospect to them, and an unusual level seems to pervade at the north and south, unto where the ethereal colours which mantle the forest of Delamere in Cheshire, and some of the Welsh mountains, form the extremity. Within this circuit in clear weather, wide volumes of sulphureous evaporations hovering over the busy towns of Manchester, Bury, Bolton, and Rochdale, serve to mark the situations of them, and in those parts of the prospect which bear the more minute investigation of the eye, we observe the ingenious means, by which the canal before named is made to wind its irregular way abreast the projecting hills, whilst at short distances beneath, strips of it appear to lace the "many-coloured meads." All these last-named subjects occupy a principal part of the body of Lancashire. During a mile of travel from hence, all remote distances are inveloped in the sombre foldings, which cover the head of towering Blackstone, till at length the vast heart of Yorkshire opens suddenly on the sight. Five miles before, entering Halifax, where the rapid and clear stream of Ripendon is closely environed with beauteous heights and rich impending pasturage, the road hath fallen by gradual descents to the margin of a brook, upon which a pleasant village of the same name stands. I cannot better describe the track of country which is now approached, than by representing it to be such a situation, as I recollected fancy figured to my mind when I first read Shakspeare's beautiful description of *Life's Chace after Content*.

Upon such a hill as is here seen, was the poor peasant looking beneath into the area of such another vale as this, to view the vain pursuit, but instead of the discordance arising from the vehicles of pleasure my fancy had then pictured, I found it now occupied by sober hinds and artizans, employed in conveying the produce of the farms and manufactories to the neighbouring marts and ports, for use and exportation.

Besides numberless cloth works and warehouses, throughout this valley there are fashionable dwellings of the Edwards's, Lodge's, Dyson's, Greenup's, Moor's, Stanfield's, and Priestley's; also a short way on the right from Ripendon is an ancient seat of the Hawroyd's. Butterworth End is a remarkable rock scene that occasionally catches the eye, peeping over some fells* that are on the right of the road. At the village of Sowerby Bridge the river Ripendon meets that of Sowerby.

Halifax is said to take its name from the Saxon word Halig and Fax, Holyhair, from a legendary tale, that a young woman, considered as a martyr, being murdered by her lover, the priests persuaded the vulgar that the hair of the holy virgin was miraculously converted into the small fibres of a yew tree, on which her head was some time preserved, and which was here distributed to the pilgrims under the name of the holy hair. By the great resort of those people, the place from a small village became a considerable town. Its great woollen manufactory is reported to have been established in the reign of Edward the IVth, since which it hath been computed there hath been made in it 10,000 pieces of shalloon in a year, and that a single dealer hath traded by commission to the amount of 60,000*l.* per annum to Holland and Hamburgh. During the rebellion raised by the Earl of Westmoreland, this town sent 1200 men to assist in suppressing it. King Henry VIIth, to protect their manufactories from robbers, empowered the magistrates to proceed against such offenders capitally with an instrument much resembling the notorious guillotine, and which was in use so late as 1620. The church is a grand gothic building, the cloth hall is a most commodious new structure, where merchants have a great weekly meeting for the purchase of the various goods. Neat dwellings of the Wilkinson's and the Mitchell's appear upon the low lands to the left of the road. On leaving Halifax for Bradford, the road next crosses several highlands, throughout which there is a variety of distant prospects into their cultivated recesses. It will be

* The provincial name for mountains.

agreeable to the patriotic traveller to know they are habitations of the meritorious labourers in our staple woollen trade, that so thickly people them. Happy indications of domestic plenty and national prosperity.

As you enter Bradford, houses of the Oats's, Sharp's, Hodden's, Duffil's, Hird's, Hardy's, and Holmes's, are seen from the road, and near that which passes from Bradford to Wakefield, hereafter to be described, there are the vast iron works of Low Moor, as also the ancient seat of Sir Francis Wood, Bart.

Bradford is another place of prosperous trade in the manufactory of cloth. It appears near the entrance, as occupying the first ascent to another range of highlands that partly rise from the borders of the river Ayre. The church is a considerable gothic structure, and being nearly at the most elevated part of the town, makes a very stately appearance.

The genteel buildings of this, as of most towns near it, acquire peculiar grandeur, and the lesser buildings singular neatness, from being composed of a clear light-coloured stone. There is a good market for provisions, and commodious inns.

Between Bradford and Leeds the road continues to be beautified with several compact villages. The genteel residences near it are the Clayton's, Harlow's, and near the large scattered but handsome village of Horsford, seen from hence, the ancient seat of the Stanhope's, now occupied by the Lloyd's. Near unto Kirkstal Bridge, and where the road crosses the river Ayre, in the bottom of a most fertile valley, that for a great way borders that river, is the celebrated ruin of Kirkstal Abbey. This spacious and magnificent structure, inferior perhaps to none in the kingdom, except Fountain Abbey, was built by Henry Lacey, who placed in it an abbot and lay brothers of the Cistertian order. There are still the remains of six chapels. The greatest portion of its pillars, outer walls, and majestic tower of freestone are yet entire.

Numerous genteel buildings uniformly crowd the vicinity of Leeds; an earnest and small display of its vast riches, internal consequence, and commercial splendor. Those on the right are the families of the Todd's and the Rudd's; on the left the Buck's and Sir Richard Johnson's *.

From MANCHESTER to LIVERPOOL.

ON the first part of this road stands the crowded village of Salford, connected with Manchester by two short bridges that cross the river Irwell. In this place is a spacious gaol, after the Howardian design; here are also the courts where the magistrates of Manchester and its vicinity have their meetings, besides its largely sharing with Manchester in the general trade of the country. The principal beer breweries are here, many shops of trade, and inns for travellers. Two elegant seats of the Acre's, and houses raised by the fashionable merchants and others thickly edge the road. For the first mile from hence, in the way to Eccles, are the Fuller's, Bayley's, Leaf's, Simpson's, Ford's, and a mile distance to the left is the handsome mansion of the Trafford's.

Eccles is a small town, remarkable for its choice cakes. A canal navigation † and some agreeable reaches of the river just named pass in view of the road; and beside the villages set down in my plan, others of less note, and many populous hamlets, together with ranks of modern dwellings, at every short interval rise to view. The other seats in the way are the Touchet's, Blackburne's, and one at entering Warrington of the Rev. E. Owen ‡.

As we leave Warrington, a canal is passed a short way from the town, made to convey the coals from the great works at St. Helen's into the river Mersey. Crossing this canal, there appears to the left a large range of undulating heights, forming themselves upon a level with the road—part of these are such as I lately noticed skirting the forest of Delaware.

* For Halifax, see Tour from London to Edinburgh.
† For description of this, see page 22.
‡ For description of this, see page 18.

Passing the villa of Stankey, there is a noble seat, on the right, Miss Bold's. A few miles onward the eminences I just noticed successively present to the eye many comely and entertaining forms, especially near the village of Rainhill, from whence they appear beautifully fantastic. There too the landscape is greatly diversified and extended, for in the distant south we further distinguish some of Shropshire and Wales, whilst a wide tract of verdurous low lands directs the eye by the borders of the river Mersey almost to Chester and Liverpool.

Prescot is represented to have been formerly the market town that was used by such as possessed the district of country on which Liverpool and its adjacent villages now stand. The scite thereof is the comely brow of a smooth hill, from which a great expanse of country is for the first time viewed, lying toward the west and north. Near the centre is Liverpool, and the vast creek or firth of the sea, which constitutes the harbour to this most populous and enterprizing town. This frith is partly formed by a peninsula, that points to the north, called Wirral, besides the great river Mersey. Most of the rivers of Cheshire, and some of Lancashire, here mingling with the tides, are ushered into their parent sea!

Prescot hath many genteel inhabitants, commodious streets and inns, with considerable manufactories of sail cloth and watchmaking. Nearly attaching to the road, which guides the traveller from thence to Liverpool, is seen the variegated park and rides of Nosely, the ancient residence of Lord Derby. The castle, and more modern buildings that have been annexed to it by the various descendants of that noble family, are situated upon a level that is on the western bounds of these extensive premises. The superb edifices, ornamented parks, pleasure grounds, and other artificial improvements which appear in the ensuing passage, are far too numerous and extensive for the limits of this work *. Some ornament the slopes of a few small hills that connect to the views on the left of it, but they are most numerous nearer the place. They have been mostly raised, and are possessed by the laudable promoters and present supporters of the vast business and wealth it possesses.

Liverpool, this commercial phenomenon, now indisputably the second seaport in the kingdom, no longer back than 1560, is described to have had no trade, but such as was confined only to the natives of the place. Their whole number of ships and boats at that time was 12, the whole burthen of which amounted to 223 tons, and in which employ was only 75 seamen; but such has been the vigour of its exertions, and the success of its speculations, that it hath engrossed the greatest share of the West India and American trade, of which latter there are commonly from 30 to 40 vessels in its docks. It appears from the custom-house books, that from the 24th of June, 1800, to the 24th of June 1801, 5060 ships arrived there of the united burthen of 489,719 tons, the dock-dues of which amounted to upwards of 18,365*l.* Its first resources are considered to have been drawn from the great manufactories of Manchester, Yorkshire, the potteries and great iron trades of Staffordshire, together with the salt trades of Cheshire. It hath had other vast increase from the inland canals, that have been directed to it, whilst its coasting trade with Ireland, Scotland, the Isle of Man, North Wales, and some of the northern counties of England, is of greatest consideration. Its public buildings are of the first fashion and convenience, of which the exchange cost 30,000*l.* Its wet and dry docks for shipping are particularly commodious. Many other immense buildings are still going forward, and although some of its streets want space, those possessed by the opulent merchants and shop keepers are commodious, and have a rich and respectable appearance. It is governed by a mayor, &c. and sends two representatives to parliament.

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* More enlarged accounts of these will appear in the Appendix, which is formed for the subscribers to gratuitous plates, &c.

MANCHESTER to CARLISLE, &c.

AT the departure from Manchester, by way of Salford, towards Chorly, Preston, Lancaster, Kendall, &c. to Carlisle and Glasgow, the road passes for some length of way over some rising lands, from which there appear at a distance on the right innumerable booths, and stands, that mark a pleasant ridge of waste ground occupied as their race course, where are annually assembled for those diversions more people than are usually seen on any occasion, having been computed at 150,000. Beneath this ridge, the river Irwell hath its course, and also a navigable canal, which connects the town of Bolton, with Manchester, Bury, &c.

After passing the innumerable splendid and handsome dwellings that are in the immediate vicinity of Manchester, the Drinkwater's and the Dauntesey's have seats in the near part of the vale just noticed, and in the road next passed are the White's, Yates's, Kenyon's, Hulston's, and Hedge's. It may be proper here to apprise the traveller, that within the bowels of the earth, over which he hereafter passes, there is one of the greatest artificial curiosities of its kind in the known world, namely, a subterraneous canal, constructed to convey coals from the bottom of the pits, (whose surfaces are here seen) to Manchester and other places. It pursues its darksome course for several miles unto the village of Worsley, which is near the seat of its great projector the Duke of Bridgewater, where this surprising curiosity terminates. It is equally necessary I notice in my way hither a cross road which branches to Bolton. The seats adjacent to this road are the Hardyman's, Dewhurst's, Fletcher's, Duckworth's, Livesey's, Anson's, Rusbotham's, and Ridgeway's. The beautiful vale of Elwell also continues in a parallel line with this road, and yields the traveller opportunity to muse on its enchanting variety. Over it at one part is seen the old mansion of Stich *. Within the valley near Bolton, the whitsters or whiteners of cotton occupy great spaces of the meadow, and display thereon the productive harvests of the loom. It is also otherwise enriched with seats of the Cross's, Rosan's, Glover's, Housidge's, &c.

Bolton is a most populous, rich, and thriving town, and is considered by some the homestead of the first cotton manufactories. Some of the largest concerns in that trade still reside in it, and it is every way marked with extensive and rich improvements.

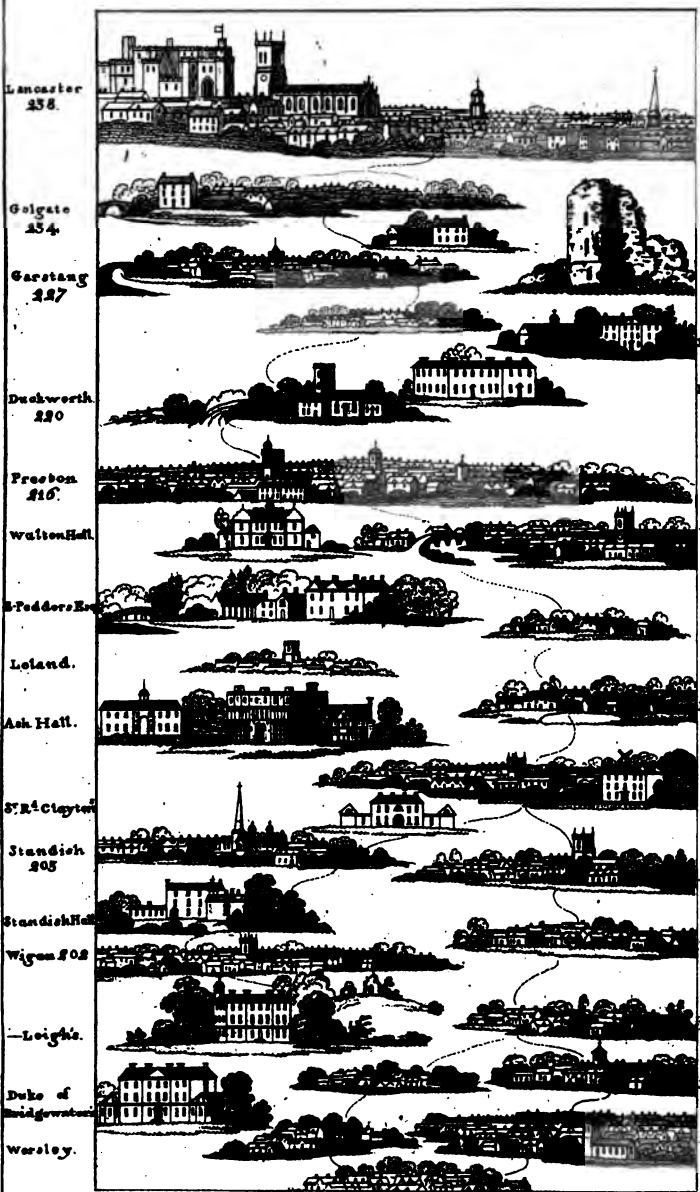
Seats of the Hainsworth's, Rivington's, and Hilton's are seen, after passing the village of Dean, and near unto where this last described by-way through Bolton again falls into the great post road. The sublime mountains arising to view near it, fill the prospects to the right; to the left they are boundless! reaching over most of the western portions of Lancashire and Cheshire, and over much of the sea.

The most prominent of the mountain scenes above noticed is called Rivington Pike, and is distinguished for being the first land made by the mariners in their course through the Irish channel to Liverpool.

In the way hence by Black Rod to Chorly are seats of the Blond's and the Mills's, and it is necessary I here mention another by-road, which is seen to branch, during the course of this stage, to the great manufacturing town of Wigan, in the first part of this, the seat of the Lea's is particularly distinguished by some artful representations of a ruined building on the adjoining heights.

Wigan, besides its wealthy inhabitants, extensive manufactories, and vast population, boasts much antiquity, is a borough town, and sends representatives to parliament. Near it is a diverting phænomenon, much visited by the curious, called the burning

* This was the ancient seat and the possessions of the family of Pilkington, so early as the conquest, one of which was bishop of Durham; there was also a branch of this noble family in Yorkshire, the remains of which now reside at Bolton. It appears to have been wrested from them by the avaricious disposition of the VIIth Henry, on the weak pretence that they appeared not in his favour at the battle of Bosworth. It is now the property of Earl Derby.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Ireini 188.

well when emptied of its water, a hissing noise is heard in the corner of it, and by applying a candle, the sulphureous halitus takes fire, and for a short time spreads itself upon the surface of the issuing water. As the traveller is returning hence, or from Wigan to Chorly, the improvements of Standish Hall may be visited with the handsome village and church of Standish, and in the same track are two seats of Sir Richard Clayton, Bart. * and one of Sir R. Standish, Bart.

Chorly is a small town, with a few genteel dwellings, and decent inns. It also shares a small portion of the cotton trade, which so much abounds throughout all this country. Leaving Chorly, and near where my likeness thereof was sketched, are Chorly Hall and Ash Hall, seats of the Crumpton's and the Cooper's. In this road are also others of the Cross's and the Crook's. Where the road leads to the view of these latter, the traveller by looking to the dips and channels of the lands near him on the right will observe various novel and rich picturesque beauties! Guerdon Hall, the Pedder's, appears a short way to the left. On the eminence where I made my sketch of Preston, the intermediate village of Walton is seen, with a fine sweep of the river Ribble, and its commodious bridge. From the latter, a beauteous ascent arises to the distant picture of that gay town. Travellers of taste cannot fail to have great gratification in this survey. In the same space are also a seat of Sir H. P. Houghton, two of the family of Ashton, and one of the Salisbury's.

Preston is said to have risen out of the ruins of Ribchester, now a village near it. Its name, an abbreviation of Priestown, from its having been also inhabited by a number of religious. It hath a grand gothic church, and other structures; the streets are good, and it is admired by strangers for its pleasant situation, and as a genteel, clean, and commodious town. It was incorporated by king Henry IId, sends two members to parliament, and hath by charter a singular jubilee or guild every 20 years. It is a place of residence for the officers belonging to the chancery court of the county palatine of Lancaster, agreeably to the grant of king Edward IIId to his son John of Gaunt Duke of Lancaster. Near this town the Duke of Hamilton made an inauspicious stand in favour of the unfortunate king Charles against Cromwell and the parliament army, and in 1715 the rebels under the Earl of Derwentwater were defeated by Gen. Carpenter. It was again taken by the rebel army in 1745. The favourite station to which strangers are directed for viewing the exquisite beauties of nature that surround this place, is from a public pleasure walk westward of the town, from whence the circuitous course of the river, and its rich undulating borders, exhibit the most pleasing effects to the eye! Many travellers in their return from the north make the interesting tour from hence to Halifax, Hebdon Bridge, and Tormorden, to Manchester.

From Preston to Garstang, the Theston's, late Rawstorn's, is the first dwelling of consequence; the rest are the Brookhole's, Gibbon's, Greenhalgh's, and Shuttleworth's. Through all this circuit the country is well inhabited, and in a good state of cultivation. A navigable canal, which connects Preston, Garstang, Chorly, &c. makes its way contiguous to it, on which a commodious passage boat regularly plies. Greenhalgh or Greenhough's Castle is seen lying to the right of the town of Garstang, once a seat of the family of Stanly's.

Garstang hath little to recommend it to notice, except its inns, and a small market for provisions. The seats in the neighbourhoood are Rawcliffe Hall, the Francis's; these premises, which were once the Butler's, anciently written Botteler's, from an ancestor thereof being cupbearerer to Henry IId. on his conquest of Ireland. Of this family was the great Duke of Ormond, who was born here; Alexander Butler, Esq. of Kirkland Hall, also in this neighbourhood, is a remaining branch of this illustrious stock.

Passing Garstang on the right, a small seat of the Duke of Hamilton, called Ashton Hall, greets the eye; several pleasant views also are in the future progress of this stage, and a neat seat of the Eidsforth's.

It may be useful here to describe the track of a road in great use, leading from that I am now upon at Preston. It lately passed through a remarkable level of land, commonly called the File of Lancashire, to the fashionable resort of company in the summer months for sea-bathing, called Black Pool. It may be thence continued as an interesting tour of diversified country, partly on the sea shore, to join again the *great tho-*

* See Supplementary vol. Adlington.

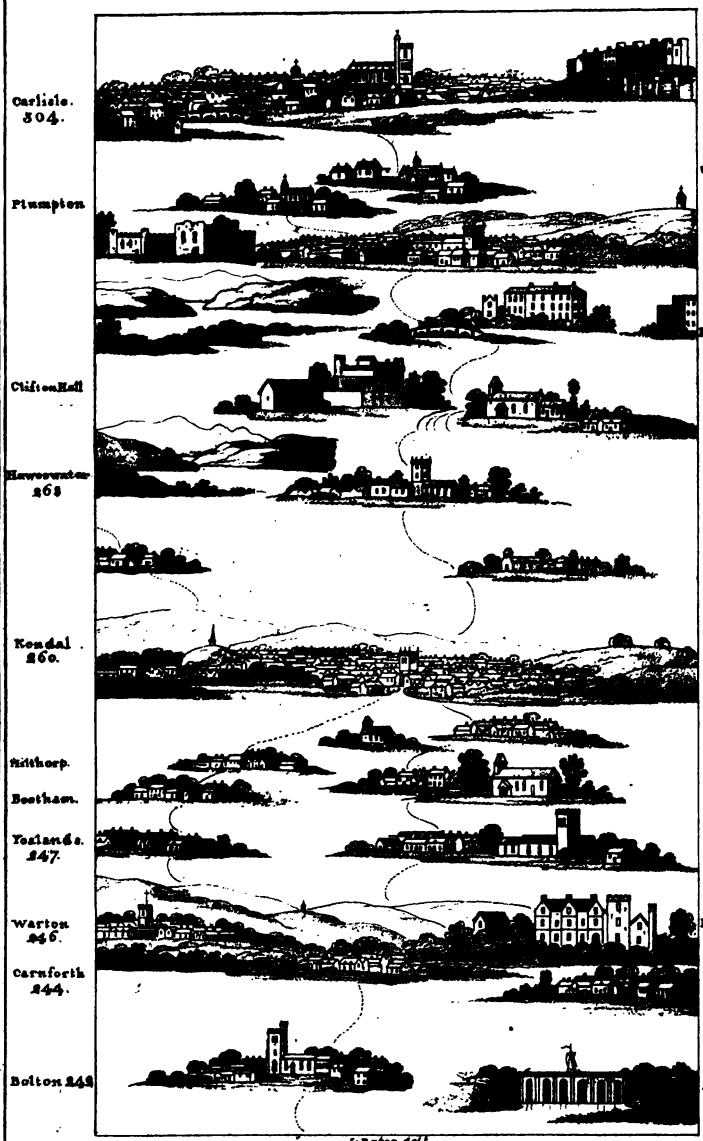
roughfare at Lancaster. I have never before had a prospect of so large a space of populous ways, where so few churches appear in view, as in the first 40 miles of this journey. Those of Kirkham, Litham, Bisham, Poulton, Stalmine, and Pilling, were all I found. Most of these, and other villages, are situated on small risings, above the level of the country, and as there are few perennial currents of water for the millers use, each village through this neighbourhood is generally marked by a windwill attaching to it. Kirkham, 8 miles from Preston, is a clean neat little town, with several fashionable and good dwellings, the possessors of which maintain a very considerable number of the poor of the county in their manufactories of sail cloth. It hath a useful market, some good shops, and a convenient inn for travellers.

Black Pool is 9 miles from Kirkham; though the sea shore at this place hath nearly a strait line, yet from its extensive projection on the Irish sea, there are obtained from it most interesting prospects to the more inland mountains of Westmorland, Cumberland, and Lancashire; in clear weather, North Wales, and even the Isle of Man are admitted into the circle. The sea sands, from which the tide sometimes retreats for the space of half a mile, are sufficiently firm and level for working the bathing machines, and for the exercise of the company. The extremity of the banks of Black Pool are formed into an agreeable promenade. The buildings of the place are mostly arranged near the banks, and in a parallel line with the walk, consisting of hotels, inns, libraries, news rooms and toy-shops, for the accommodation of its fashionable and numerous visitors.

The ancient family of Clifton hath a noble hall, and great possessions in this country. Passing from Preston hither, and a short way from the road, is another seat of the Hesketh's. Poulton, the stage town in the way from Black Pool to Lancaster, is a compact little market town, with good inns, and was about a century ago a sea-port of no small consequence, being then superior to Liverpool. The river is called the Wyer, and is navigable for ships of near 300 tons burthen; within about two miles of Poulton, is a place called Wardley, where vessels usually anchor, and ships are well protected. Hence the proverb current in the north, "As safe as Wyer." Preston was about a generation ago a creek only under the port of Poulton, but is now accounted the superior port, though the river of Preston is a very dangerous harbour. Two miles from Poulton, there is a safe ford at low water, across the river Wyer. Cockherham, Pilling, and Altalmine are inconsiderable villages. In some part of this road it is unsafe to venture too much upon the way where the sea-tides overflow, particularly at Cockherham and Pilling, without good instructions, or a guide.

The inland views through much of this road are dignified, and adorned with lofty heights and intermediate slopes of wood and pasturage, that constitute an agreeable variety at every turn of the road. Other seats in the way are the Dalton's, the Addington's, and an antiently fortified mansion of the Duke of Hamilton, called Ashton Hall, formerly the seat of the Ashton's. Cockersand Abbey formerly belonged to the Dalton's; one arch, being the chapter house, only remains, and is used as a vault or burial place for the family.

Lancaster is situated on the borders of the beautiful river Lune, which country is said to have been first inhabited by the Brigantes, a warlike tribe of ancient Britons, and was by them denominated *Caerwerid*, that is, the *great town*. It was afterwards a Roman station, where a company of Romans, called the Longovisi, were lodged. Several Roman coins, stone inscriptions, earthen vessels, bricks, &c. are found here; besides which there are still the relics of Roman buildings. The castle possesses an eminence above the town, and is one of the noblest remains of ancient strength and grandeur this country boasts. Part of these works was constructed by the Emperor Adrian, in the year 124, and part in 305, by Constantine Chlorus. John Earl of Moreton and Lancaster added to its grand court, by erecting the beautiful tower, now called the gate-house, wherein he afterwards in a royal capacity gave audience to the French ambassadors; and here he also received homage from the vanquished king of Scotland. Other additions were made at other periods, and the whole is now undergoing great repairs at the charge of the county, to augment its convenience as a county gaol, and the court-house of the assizes, which have continued to be holden here near 500 years. The oldest and most extensive church of the place occupies the same eminence, and from the higher battlements of these buildings, there are most striking prospects into the surrounding country, from whence, when the weather is serene, appear most of the highest mountains of Westmorland, Cumberland, and Yorkshire. The eye also is carried over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sea, to some parts of Wales, and the Isle of Man; whilst the roofs of the buildings of the town below seem in a novel manner levelled with the surface of the intermediate banks around, and the spacious river, the shipping, bridges, and wharfs, are other conspicuous subjects in the foreground of the picture.

The modern buildings of the town are singularly tasteful and magnificent; it hath a most flourishing home and export trade, and is governed by a mayor, recorder, &c. &c. Here was formerly a Franciscan convent, another of the Dominican order, and an abbey of St. Martin in Normandy.

Travellers of extensive curiosity, and whose ardour leads them more immediately to the *lake scenes* of these counties, next to be approached, may make their way from hence by Hest Bank and Lancaster Sands, and through the abundant beauties that are also to be found on the more western coast of Lancashire.

Lancaster Sands first passed in this way are 5 miles in breadth, for which a guide should be taken from Hest Bank, and whom it may be proper for the traveller to retain for like services in the succeeding ways. His first direction hence should be to Cartmel town, that will be found lurking among the hills, between two bays of the sea, the one formed by the river Kenken, the other by the conflux of some smaller streams, there falling from the great Westmorland and Cumberland fells into the Irish sea. Cartmel abbey, on the same round, was once a priory of the order of St. Austin, dedicated to the virgin Mary, and founded by William Marechall, Earl of Pembroke. From Cartmel he may reach Holker, the seat of Lord Cavendish, and thence proceed by Lever Sands to Ulverston, Dalton, and the beautiful remains of Furnass abbey, the priory of Conished, and Coniston water, which is the first lake met with by this track; that of Easthwaite is found by passing the town of Hawrshead, and by Sowrey is Windermeer.

Burton and Carnforth are the first villages on the great road at leaving Lancaster, in the way to which a noble aqueduct will be found on the right of the road, supporting a navigable canal, lately formed from the coal countries about Chorly, and which passes hence to Kendal. By a short deviation here from the great road, into that which leads from it to Hornby, may be obtained a view of the rich luxuriant valley of the Lune, which Mr. Grey describes as possessing every feature which constitutes a perfect landscape. Roswick Hall and Morecome Lodge are near this way, the first, a former residence of Sir Robert Bondless, with seats of the Standish's, Jackson's, Mason's, Bushe's, Berwick's, Atkinson's, &c.

Burton is a small post town, with good inns, and a few decent private dwellings. On leaving it, to the right of the road, may be observed a tremendous barren rock near 600 feet above the common level of the road. Families of the Johnson's and Scott's have seats in this direction.

There is another road from Lancaster to Kendal much used, which leaves that I last described near Burton, and which passes the village of Milthorp. The seats this way, are the Wilson's, Levan's, and an antient seat of the Earl of Suffolk, a seat of lady Andover's, and Sizergh Hall, the Strickland's.

At the approach to Kendal, where I made my sketch for the plan of that town—It deceitfully appears to be situated in a secure valley, contiguous to which, on a hill to the right, are the ruins of the castle. Another similar eminence, ornamented with an obelisk, is called Castlebow Hill. From either of these may be obtained the most complete view of the adjacent river Kent, and surrounding country, and as many deep valleys are comprehended in this prospect, the apparent situation of the town, by a comparison with them, rises to a greater eminence. It is very ancient, and still retains several British and Roman remains. Here were early planted some of our most productive manufactories, particularly those of woollen cloths, cottons, and stockings, which have since branched so widely and profitably to other parts of the kingdom. Queen Elizabeth erected the town into a corporation; and Charles the First confirmed and enlarged the charter. It hath a mayor, 12 aldermen, and 20 capital burgesses. It is recorded by a Latin inscription on the wall of the vestry in the church at Perith, that 2500 people died here in 1598, of the plague. The market, inns, and principal shops of trade are on the highest ground, near half a mile from the entrance of the town; from thence to the north is another street of nearly the same length; another leads by similar distance to cross the river Kent on the eastward, and by means of this latter the post road is continued to Shap.

As the view of the celebrated lake of Windermeer may be obtained by a short devi-

ation at this place from the direction of my principal thoroughfare, it is useful to give a short description for that passage. After passing a short way from Kendal, the views of the country become extremely interesting. Near the eye some of it is waste, partly spotted, and patched, with short wood, and it is partially cultivated, whilst massive protuberances or fractured partitions of the native stratum of grey-coloured stone bursts to appearance through the soil in every direction. At some part of the way, the distance is disagreeably wild, at others placid, romantic, and picturesque. Sometimes there appears over the whole the vast Stavely and Coitmoor fells towering among the clouds in indescribable sublimity.

The first view of the lake is within six miles of Kendal, at the village of Bowness, where there is also a good inn, from whence boats may be taken to convey visitors across the lake to the several isles of it, or to the distant borders thereof. A most gratifying tour also may be made from hence along part of its eastern border to Ambleside, where Mr. Grey describes delicious views across it, and almost from one end to the other; it is 10 miles in length, and at most a mile over, resembling the course of some vast and magnificent river, with no flat marshy grounds, no osier beds, or patches of scrubby plantations on its banks: at the head two valleys open among the mountains, from thence the fells visibly sink, and soften along its sides; sometimes they run into it, (but with a gentle declivity) in their own dark and natural complexion: often they are green and cultivated, with farms interspersed, and round eminences on the border, covered with trees: toward the south it seemed to break into large bays, with several islands and a wider extent of cultivation *."

The road from Kendal to Shap, after passing the fertile vale of the river Ken, shews a vast succession of wide wastes, mountains, and moors, long vales, and broad hollows, that yield the traveller little amusement after the novelty of the first impression. Seats of the Wakefield's and the Blount's adorn the first part of this track. Shap is a small town, principally of use to travellers for rest, and to divide the dreary stages between Kendal and Penrith. Here were latterly some relics of a convent for Cistertian monks, and there are still to be seen near it some enormous stones, that are supposed either to have been sepulchral or druidical monuments. By an easy ride through a country of much variety of landscape beauty, lying to the left of Shap, the traveller reaches the celebrated lake of *Haweswater*, which with Ullswater, (that may also be reached from a short road, dividing from the next stage), are ornamented with a variety of abrupt and terrific precipices, of which frowning appendages there is a deficiency at Windermeer.

Near this passage is also the seat and extensive park of Lord Lonsdale, and also the august mansion of Graystock, the Duke of Norfolk's. Both of these are observable from the woods and smaller plantations of furs and other evergreens, tastefully arranged on the summits of the hills near them. Lowther Hall, next passed, is another possession of the family of that name. Advancing thus near Penrith, the country imperceptibly exchanges its savage character for pleasurable views of cultivation and fertility. A circular entrenchment seen near the road is called Arthur's round table, supposed by some to have been a place for tournaments in the Saxon times, and by others to have been erected in commemoration of a peace concluded here between the kings of England Scotland and Wales. Here are also the several seats of the Wallace's, Parkins's, and the Broom's. At Lowther bridge the rivers Emmont and Lowther form a junction. Numberless other rich specimens of landscape beauties every where pervade this passage to Penrith.

Penrith is situated beneath some verdurous heights that stretch from it toward the east; one point of which is decorated with a fancy building, commonly called the Beacon. From this spot is a most interesting view of the adjacent country, and hereon are the annual races of the town. The river Emmont on one side winds amicably along the edge of the town, and on another side the ruins of an antient castle occupy the landscape.

Some say this was built in the reign of Henry IId, whilst others attribute it to the time of Henry VI. Like other towns on this great military way, it hath often suffered by the rancorous predatory contentions and ravages of the English and the Scotch. It contains neat modern buildings, and many venerable relics of antiquity, such as fragments of its antient walls, Saxon or other monuments.

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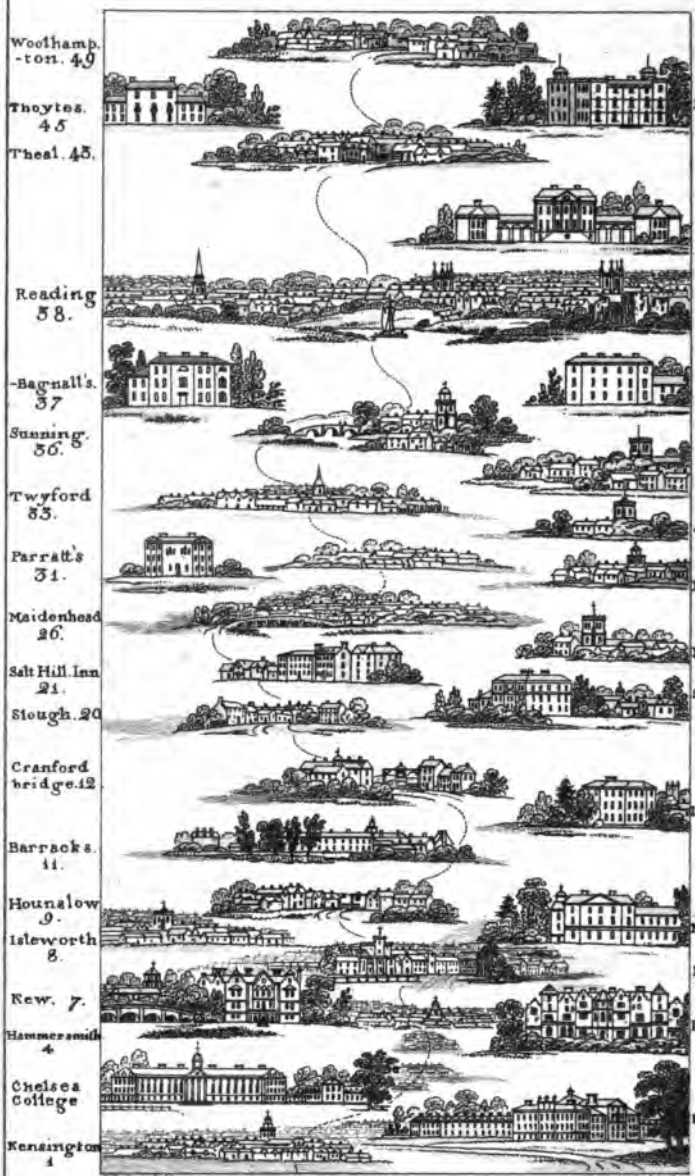
* See Guide to Keswick, Cockermouth, and Whitehaven.



Published July 1 1831 by J Baker

The road from Penrith to Carlisle continues for some way on the breast of the hill I just noticed. The river Petterill also bends its course near it, and from hence is a pleasing prospect over the open lands that are contiguous; where countless slips of gaily coloured tillage extend in various directions like the expanded folds of a fan, unto its termination amidst thick woodlands and enclosed pasturage.

After a few miles travel, these highlands cease to prevail, and a wide champaign country opens in great breadth towards the north, in the centre of which the antient city of Carlisle seems lifting its sacred gothic grandeur to the distant view of the traveller. Few places are more commonly noticed in the history of our country than this city, first as a place of celebrity among the Britons, then amongst the Romans, who had a considerable fort here. The famous Picts Wall also crossed the kingdom by this place. It was destroyed by the Romans, but rebuilt by Egfrid, King of Northumberland. It hath been the residence of many feudal princes, and some kings of England and Scotland have alternately possessed themselves thereof. Here Edward King of England held his parliament, and here David King of Scotland died. It was taken by the rebels in the year 745, but retaken by the Duke of Cumberland six weeks after, when one Coppock, whom the pretender had made bishop, was hung on the walls. Some say the first see was established by the Northumbrians, and others by Henry the Ist. The cathedral is a stately structure, apparently too much so for its strength. It is 137 feet long and 72 broad, with much internal grandeur. The walls of the town are of prodigious thickness, and about a mile in circumference. It hath three entrances by gates, strongly fortified; that to the west is called the English gate, one to the south is called the Irish gate, and another northward is called the Scotch gate. It hath large markets, copiously supplied with provisions, many wealthy inhabitants, large inns, some manufactories in cotton, and numbers of reputable traders.

The sketch of the place from the engraved plan was taken on a green bank, which riseth towards the north, upon a level with the scite of the adjacent town. The several rivers Eden, Candy, and Pentorel, join their liquid embraces in the interveningleaves. The castle from hence on one side, looks like a complete fortress; on another, comely bridges are seen that cross the above rivers, whilst the numerous buildings of the town, its watch towers and walls unite in the view, and form, collectively, materials sufficiently interesting for the largest landscape that ever appeared on canvass; and I have the presumption to hope that the traveller, by these directions, will confess to have found, even in the restrained compass of my present tour, scenes of all descriptions as great and gratifying as are to be met with through the passes of Switzerland, Savoy, the Alps, or even the various thoroughfares that border the Rhine or Danube.

A GUIDE

FROM

LONDON THROUGH BATH, BRISTOL,

AND TO SOUTH WALES, AND THE MARCHES.

THE populous villages of Knightsbridge and Kensington, enclose much of the road at the beginning of this passage. The first notable object is near Hyde Park Corner, "ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, for sick and lame, supported by voluntary subscriptions and benefactions." This was once the dwelling of Lord Lanesbro', and is a pleasing example of that "sweet charity" which so highly ornaments the English name. Other institutions, equally characteristic and humane, are in every great thoroughfare to this metropolis. In Knightsbridge the principal buildings are military barracks, an useful floor-cloth manufactory, with handsome dwellings of the Manners's, Warrens, Vere's, Morgan's, the Hon. Mrs. Leigh's, and Major Murcott's. At Kensington is the Duchess of Gloucester's, Sir George Shee's, the Thornton's, Whitaker's, Batty's, Helmes's, Farmer's, Aisly's, Baxter's, with Camden House, once the residence of the Princess of Denmark, and her son the Duke of Gloucester.

Hyde Park, on the right of the road, is greatly used by pedestrian and equestrian exercisers, and by family carriages in pleasurable airings: it is laid out in commodious des and walks; a large piece of water is collected in it from the small brook Bays;

and it hath a large assortment of old wood, with some new plantations of shrubs. As these subjects are viewed from some distant points, their *tout ensemble* is graceful, but when approached, we are disgusted to find its verdure of grass so far disfigured and destroyed by improper trespass upon it. The royal palace and garden of Kensington are only separated from this by its wall fence. The palace was built by King William, who made a road to it from Whitehall, that passed St. James's and Hyde Parks, and it hath been one of the residences of every succeeding sovereign until the late George IId, who died in it. The gardens here are most of them laid out in open and umbrageous walks, that are used for public accommodation; and it is in fine weather one of the largest promenades of the fashionables in or near London.

A level space of land spreads from this road unto where some hills of Surry mark the offskips of the south; on the other side, agreeable inequalities are in the surface of all which lay between London and Holland House, where the level track again for some way shews, stretching towards the west. The building last named is of great antiquity, and was anciently the Cope's, from which family it descended to the Fox's now Lord Holland's. Here Addison died. Chelsea and Battersea, with many other buildings bordering the river Thames, are seen from hence. Among these may be observed the topmost ornaments and large dignified roofs of Chelsea Hospital. This grand fabric was formed and began by King Charles the IId, and was intended for a royal palace; it was completed by James IId, and William the IIId, at 150,000l. expence. It gives liberal maintenance and honourable repose to between 4 or 500 disabled soldiers. Near the same spot a design equally laudable is just established, for erecting a military asylum for the necessitated offspring of such invalids, and the more unfortunate orphans of those who have fallen in the service of their country. The first of these is the work of Sir Christopher Wren, the latter is completing under the direction of the Board of Barracks. A bye road passes to these subjects from the village of Knightsbridge above named. The same also leads to a bridge crossing over the river Thames, at Battersea, one way, to Fulham another *.

I was so strongly impressed with the view I had of London from the hill of Hampstead, which is seen from this road at a distance on the right, as induced me in my description to delineate the buildings of its gay suburbs, and which are there seen in every direction to branch from it "like radiaters shooting from a large planet!" and I find those which attach to this road describe one of its longest lines, for they may be said to stretch upwards of 4 miles with little intermission. In this crowded population, that is often so unpleasant to the sober contemplative traveller, some subjects of interest may be viewed, such as the improved taste and convenience of some new buildings. The inclosed lands also near the road are industriously planted for early vegetables and fruits for the London markets, and as the appetite of the epicure and the fancy of the great are thus gratified, multitudes of poor industrious females are supported by the same means, who walk from the remoter parts of Shropshire and Wales, attracted hither by the earnings of the spring and summer months. This space of the road hath a uniform level surface, and it is in most parts spacious, yet commonly crowded by its abundant traffic. Besides those I have mentioned, numberless distinguished residences are constantly appearing in the vicinity of it all the way of this first stage: such as I have power to notice are the tasteful premises of the Margrave of Anspach at Hammersmith; also the Hatchett's, Osbaldeston's, Jacob's, Scott's, Master's, Munn's, Muntefere's, Grant's, Bell's, Hill's, Cromwell's, Stow's, Atwood's. At Turnham Green, the Wildman's, Jones's, Griffith's, Pain's, the Wares's, and the Rev. Dr. Horne's. At Chiswick, a village seen to the left, the Duke of Devonshire's, the Stephenson's, Lady King's, Sir John Earl's, the Woodroof's, Luther's, Sidebottom's, and Osterly's. Attaching to the town of Brentford, are Lord Clifden's, Clithero's, Brownsworth's, Harrington's, Smith's, Burchit's, and Lord Mendip's. And in the contiguous village of Kew Green, are the Duke of Cumberland's, the Hunter's, Haverfield's, and the Royal Palace. At Isleworth, the Thackrah's, Frank's, Vanderheyden's, Thackrey's, Bland's, and Hon. Mrs. Keppel's. Travellers of observation are so constantly reprobating the sad condition of the portion of our greatest national thoroughfare passing this

* Detailed descriptions of the whole course of this river, the splendid scenery of its borders, roads that intersect them, and select landscape views of the seats, &c. so situated, are now preparing by the author for the Imperial Guide. The Views (under the patronage of several of the Royal Family, the Nobility, and others, residing thereon,) are presented in the shape of a useful and valuable Appendix to that Work.

town, I have been involuntarily led to the following suggestion for its amendment, and such as are sensible to the impulse of loyalty, will approve a measure that may serve to assist the apparent desires of our gracious Sovereign to improve the situation of the borders of the river Thames opposite. There is a rising of firm dry land, running from a bank of the river Brent, west of it, unto another such brow of land, that is passed before coming to the Star and Garter Inn, a commodious and perfect new branch of road may be carried more direct upon this from the metropolis, than is its present course. Persons of rank and property, through whose premises this must pass, should permit selfish considerations to give place to a project that would do credit to their country, and perhaps preserve the lives and safety of their fellow creatures. The inhabitants of Old Brentford might be easily reimbursed; their dwellings are mostly of the meanest description, and the spaces which are at present occupied by them, as well as the present contemptible road, might be converted into as fashionable and pleasant crescents, lines of houses, terrace walks, gardens, &c. as are on any border of the river. The contiguity of such new premises to Kew Gardens, and the great societies of rank and fashion which every way fill the villages near, are probable inducements for such a tenantry to them, as would render the speculation as profitable as it appears laudable.

Brentford hath a good market for provisions, a town hall for the county sessions, and here the representatives of the county are chosen; besides its vast traffic from the road, it hath much advantage from a new river lately made from the Grand Junction Canal, to pass with the brook Brent into the Thames at this place. Its commerce with this river, the villages above named, and the royal residence at Kew*, unto which a bridge passes from it, and from the number of wealthy and fashionable residents that are found throughout its neighbourhood. In 1642 Charles the First marched hither after the battle of Edge Hill, and attacked and defeated the parliament forces. Upon leaving Brentford, are the spacious premises of Sion House, the Duke of Northumberland's. The seats of the Gotobed's, Barber's, and Palmer's, otherways enclose the road on the left. The handsome premises of the Duke of Marlborough, and those of the Robinson's, are on the right. At Worton, seen a short way to the left of the road, are the Parker's and West's. Within the park of Sion House above named, was antiently a monastery, founded by Henry the Vth, in 1414. At the suppression of it by Henry VIIIth, its revenues were reckoned at 1944*l.* Near the entrance to Hounslow, are Sir Joseph Banks's and the Murthwait's.

Hounslow is situated near the junction of the old western and the great Bath and Bristol road, and is almost wholly occupied by innkeepers and their connections. Here was once a market, and a house of Trinitarian Friars, established before the third year of Edward the Ist. Leaving this, the manor house is on the right. At some distance the same way are the noble demesnes of Osterly Park, the property of the heiress of the earl of Westmoreland. This was antiently part of the estate of Sion monastery just named, and had a mansion built by Sir Thomas Gresham.

For several miles of the road, leaving Hounslow, other large portions of high lands in Surry, may be seen extending a long blue line toward the west. Military barracks are on the heath here passed. Its waste land is computed at 426 acres; it is edged on every side by some neat and fashionable dwellings, garden grounds, arables, and rich pasturage. Of the several vestiges of camps found here, may be mentioned those of the Earl of Gloucester, in the reign of King Charles the First, in the year 1642, of the forces under the Earl of Essex, who were also incamped here. A small brick bridge crosses the small brook of Cran. At the edge of this waste, and near the noted inn named after it, on the right of the road hither, are the villages of Easton and Norwood also. Seats in view from hence are the Spence's, Fraser's, Ashlin's, and Parkinson's. A large level space of country is hereafter passed, through which are found the villages of Longford and Colnbrook. In this the distant views are interrupted by the intervening field fences and woods, until the beauteous ridges of land that skirt the river Thames for several miles of its way, near Windsor, open their varieties to the eye.

Colnbrook is named after the river Coln. Camden supposes the Danes sometime

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* For a description of this, see Guide from Wandsworth to Kingston, Guildford, &c. Vol. II. of Imperial Guide. Descriptions of the pleasureable rides throughout those north borders of the river Thames, that lie between London and this place, will be found accompanying the landscape views of Harlingham, Ham House, Teddington Grove, Witton Park, Witton House, &c. in the Appendix.

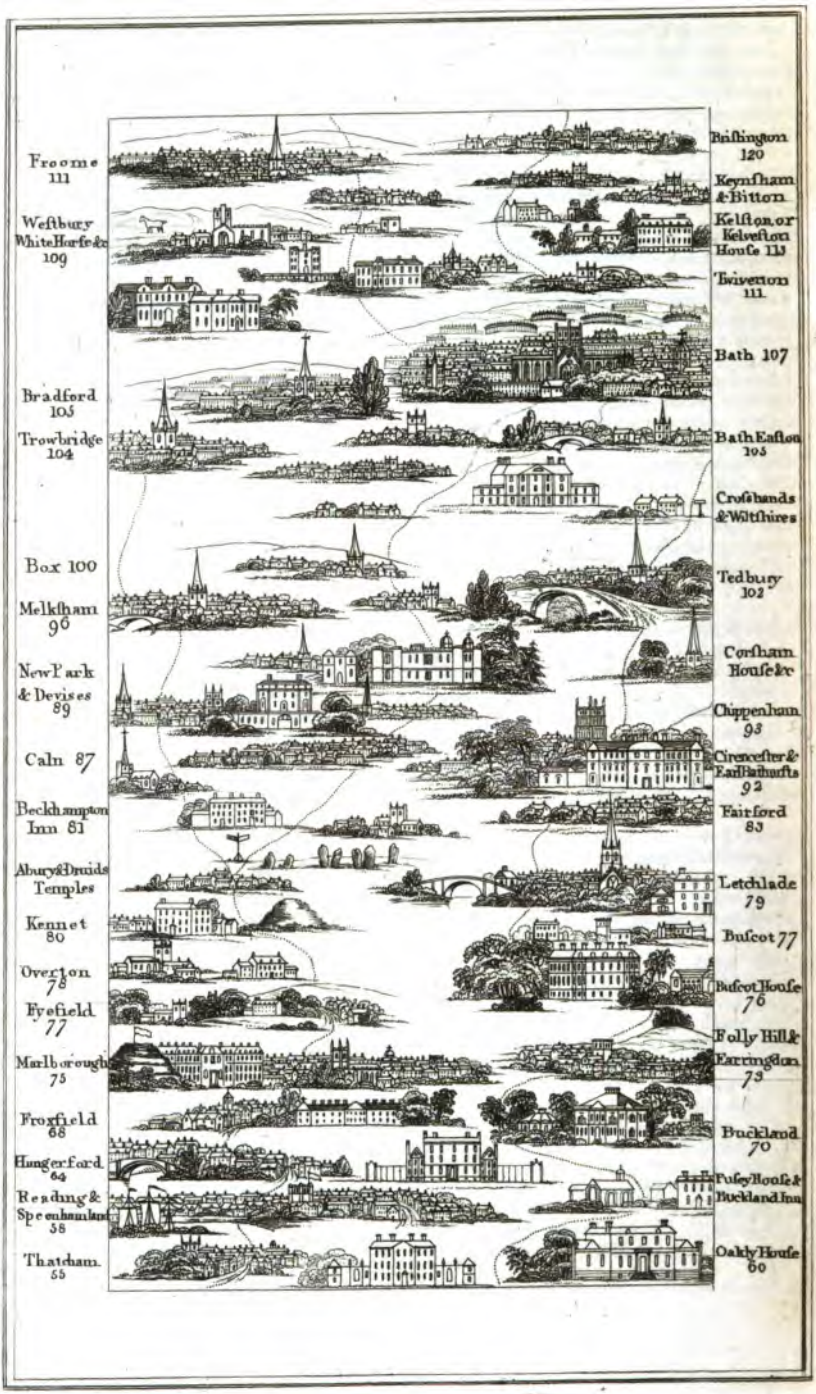
secured themselves within some small islands that were here bounded by that river, after being defeated at Farnham by Alfred. Here was once a market, and there was a chapel founded in it, by Edward the IIId. Near Langly Broom, and where a road passes from that I am upon into Datchet and Windsor, is Ditton Park, the Duchess of Buccleugh's, opposite this, at Langly, is Sir R. Harvey's, Bart. At the village of Datchet are families of the Hornsby's, Petre's, Hedick's, and General Needham's, on the left.

Slough is of little note, but for its convenient inns. Near this is Dr. Herschell's abode, celebrated for his improved telescope, which magnifies 6500 times, the apparatus of which may be seen aside the road leading from this village to Windsor. For much of the way now passed the traveller cannot but be interested to observe the spacious and splendid castle of Windsor, proudly exhibiting its various princely compartments in so many, so grand, and such interesting points of view. It decorates the point of a handsome rise of land, bordering the river Thames. The first histories represent the Saxon kings to have had a seat on or near this celebrated spot, where they formed a strong pass. William the Conqueror afterwards gave it increased consequence, by erecting a palace here. It had successive enlargements and improvements from Henry Ist, Edward IIId, Henry IVth, Queen Elizabeth, Charles IId, and his present Majesty has made it so far an object of his royal attention, that the interior ornaments and repairs accord with the great designs of its illustrious projectors, and which have rendered it every way commodious as it is magnificent, and worthy the august family who have so long honoured it with their residence, and adorned it with their virtues. Within this castle Edward the IIId. had once the kings of France and Scotland captives. The terrace on the north and east side, supposed to be the first work of its kind in Europe, was given to it by Queen Elizabeth. From this place views of the distant countries are particularly rich and extensive. Many paintings of the antients, and many modern productions, (particularly by West,) and much fine sculpture, ornament the several state apartments. The adjoining park or forest hath been described to extend at one time to a circuit of 60 miles.

The portion of this, now called the Great Park, runs for 3 miles southward of the castle, and is laid out in most luxuriant avenues of trees, groves, rides, and pasturage. Near one part of this extremity of it is the great lodge, at another the keepers lodge *. This is 15 miles in circumference. Another part, lying toward the north, is called the Little Park; in this is *Frogmore Lodge*, with greatly improved garden grounds &c. and is about 4 miles in circumference. The town of Windsor hath also much antiquity, is governed by a mayor, and sends two members to parliament. It hath a noble old church, market place, town hall, and many good buildings belonging to the fashionable, and to those of rank, who are attached to the court, or are attracted by the agreeable beauties of the neighbourhood.

Eton, separated from the above described place by the course of the river Thames, is notable for its college. Some of the grandeur of this building appears also from the high road. It was first founded by Henry the VIth, hath great endowments, and is one of the largest and most respectable seminaries for polite learning in the kingdom. At leaving Slough, and passing to Salt Hill, the Duke of Gloucester's, the Ainscomb's, Birch's, and general Harcourt's are on the left; on the right appears a noble seat of the Penn's, and one of Lord Rosslyn's. Salt Hill is noted for its elegant inns. Considerable villages, Farnham and Burnham, appear on a ridge of highly cultivated lands, which for a series of miles continue lying in sight upon the right of the road, and which have a graceful termination in the river Thames, and in the noble precipices of Taplow and Cliveden. Near Farnham is a handsome seat of the Irbys's; opposite this to the left, is a seat of Sir J. C. Palmer's, and opposite to Burnham is Sir Booth Gore's. At Burnham above named was a convent of Augustine nuns. Near where the chalky cliffs just noticed appear, looking immediately over the river, and much of the distant country, is the village of Taplow, in the vicinity of which are seats of the Marquis Thomond, Lady Watkin Williams Wynne, the Greenfell's, Montalieu's,* and the remains of Cliveden house, Lady Orkney's. The village of Bray, seen on the left, is most noticed for the versatile vicar, on whom a well known song hath been written, and an hospital with liberal endowments for the decaying poor. After passing a handsome stone bridge, which leads into Maidenhead, there are seats of Sir J. Pocock's, Bart. and Sir W. Hearne's. On the right of the place is Lord Boston's, the Slack's, Law's, and Wyat's.

* See Hounslow to Staines and Bagshot.


Froome 111
Westbury White Horse &c 109
Bradford 105
Trowbridge 104
Box 100
Melksham 96
New Park & Devises 89
Calne 87
Beckhampton Inn 81
Abury & Druids Temples
Kennet 80
Overton 78
Freefield 77
Marlborough 75
Froxfield 68
Hungerford 64
Reading & Speenhamland 58
Thatcham 55
Basingston 120
Keynsham & Bitton
Kelston or Kelveston House 113
Twiverton 111
Bath 107
Bath Easton 105
Crosshands & Wiltshires
Tedbury 102
Corsham House &c
Chippenham 93
Cirencester & Earl Bathurst's 92
Fairford 83
Letchlade 79
Buscot 77
Buscot House 76
Folly Hill & Farringdon 73
Buckland 70
Pusey House & Buckland Inn
Oakly House 60

Maidenhead, according to the tradition, had its name from a British virgin massacred at Cologn. It shews its antiquity from being made a borough by Edward the IIId. It hath some neat houses and inns, and a small market. A pleasing view may be taken from the hill, which is found at leaving this town, from whence may be observed, a long reach of the Thames, pursuing its "silver winding way" from Henley to Windsor; it also embraces much of the country I have described in my way from Hounslow hither, parts that stretch in different directions from some other borders of it, and many great heights that are bounding the greater distances. The seats in the next pursuit of this road are on the borders of a pleasant waste, called Maidenhead Thicket, and are the Levis's, Lownds's, Sawyer's, Westbrook's, Grant's, and one of Lord Dorchester's, and at the village of Shottersbrook is one of the Vansittart's; at this village also was once a religious house of the Benedictines, and near it was a Roman camp. Also at White Walham is an antient house where Prince Arthur, the son of Henry the VIIth, is supposed to have resided. In the way from hence to Hare Hatch, on the right, is the Ximenes's and Phillips's; farther Parrat's, and near Hare Hatch, are the Young's and Girdler's. The country, after leaving the level of Maidenhead Thicket, agreeably undulates on every side the road, and on the most prominent parts, many wood scenes successively open to it. After passing Hare Hatch, many spacious tracks of arables and distant levels of meadow lands, that partly border the river Thames and the Loddon, are in the prospects.

Twyford is a small village, that is situated on the last named, where are two fords, i. e. Twyford. Near Ruscomb church, that lies a short way left to the entrance of it, is a seat of the Ayres's. Farther on the same hand is Lord Braybrook's and Colonel Gower. Before entering it, on the right, is seen the village of Wargrave. Here was once a market town, and an estate of Queen Emma, and there are the elegant improvements of the late Lord Barrymore, the Matthews's, and the Hill's. Passing Twyford, Sheeplake is a small village seen at some distance to the right upon an eminent border of the river Thames, beyond which, alike situated, is the pleasant village of Sunning, which may be passed by a small deviation from the high road. At this place was formerly a monastery and a chapel, which, according to Leland, was much frequented for the cure of madness: it had also a bishop's see until Hurmanis, the last resident, translated it to Sarum. At this is the antient family of the Rich's, and near it is the handsome seat of the Palmer's; Sir William Scott's at a little farther than this nearer the road. The Wheble's and the Marquis of Blandford's are at a short distance to the left; that on a conspicuous eminence to the right is the Marsac's.

Reading is a county town of much consequence and fashion, and is of considerable note for antiquity. The Danes had a station here, for the security of which they made a ditch that reached from the Thames to the river Kennet. By them it was surrendered to the Saxons in 827. It stood a siege in the reign of Charles the First, and for a long time defended itself against the Earl of Essex, and an army of 16,000 foot and 300 horse.

Here was a most magnificent abbey, rendered famous for holding the remains of many august persons, particularly the heart, tongue, eyes, bowels, and brains of its founder, King Henry, (his body being deposited at Rouen,) and the corps of Adeliza his Queen. At the reformation, its abbot, Hugh Farringdon, and two monks, were here drawn, hanged, and quartered, for refusing to surrender up the abbey. It was formed of flint, cased or ornamented with stone, and was destroyed in the civil wars. Remnants of this remain near the north side the town, near which a new county gaol hath been lately erected. Parliaments have been held at this town, and several laws enacted in them. The town hath great trade in collecting and conveying to market the rich produce of the corn lands that abound near it, and other articles; has some trade in weaving; is governed by a mayor, aldermen, and burgesses. Here was a house of grey friars, a house of lepers, and still has a grammar school of good endowments, a blue-coat school for poor boys, another for girls, and other useful establishments.* At Cat's-Grove Hill, near this town, is a stratum, or bed of oyster-shells, that claim the attention of the curious. At Caversham, near Reading, was a priory of black canons. A commodious vista appears to the left at passing from Reading, which directs to Coley House, the M'Connell's. The handsome seat occupying a pleasant ornamented mount farther on

* There is a pleasant road from London to Reading, by way of Egham, Windsor Park, and Oakingham. For description of this, see p. 51, and View of Warfield, in the Appendix; another of this description passes from it by the borders of the Thames, to Wallingford and Oxford. See p. 48, 49, also the descriptions of Englefield House, and Prospect Hill, in the Appendix.

the road to the right, is the Leibenrood's,* within a sinking woodland scene on the left of this is the Blagrave; Calcot House, next approaching, is the principal seat of the last-named family; another of them is also left of the way near the same passage. Passing the small village of Theale, a considerable expanse of level country again edges the road; at other parts it is, as usual, bounded with rings of highly improved uplands; and having now lost the majestic Thames, the sprightlier Kennet successfully assumes its place near the road, and continues to grace the landscape for full 20 miles of its ensuing track. The banks of this river have peculiar novelty, and are rendered particularly rich from being artfully managed with trenches and levelling, to have the wintry flood every where forced over them at the will of the proprietor. Thus enriched, the herbage may be seen to assume a lively verdure in February and March, when all the lands around are brown with lingering frost, and hence their proprietors procure the earliest and most valuable stocks of grass lamb, &c. for the Bath and London markets. Passing the small inconsiderable village of Theale, Englefield House * is seen on the right hand, once the Marquis of Winchester's, now the Benyon's. At this place Ethelwolf defeated the Danes in the year 871, and at Bradfield near it, was a monastery, founded by Ina, King of the Saxons. The Bostock's and Crew's are also on that edge of the level that is seen from hence to the left of the road; the Thoyt's, Clerk's, Congreve's, and Mount's, are on the left of it; leaving Woolhampton, on the right is the Poyntz's. Near the entrance to Thatcham, on the same hand, lately stood a noble seat of Sir J. Crofts †.

To the westward of this stage stood the antient city of Silchester, or Vendonium supposed to be built by Constantine in the year 337, at which are some of the most noble vestiges of Roman grandeur that remain with us. Speenhamland was an antient village, and appears to have directed the establishment of the more modern Newbury: the principal buildings of the latter, with the town hall and market-place, are formed upon the borders of the neighbouring river Kennet, but there is a spacious and commodious street, which completely connects it with this village. This place is notable for being the scene of warfare between the king and parliament, a battle being fought here 1643, where the king commanded in person against the Earl of Essex; another was fought in 1644. The celebrated John Winchcomb, commonly called Jack of Newbury, flourished here in the time of Henry VIIIth. Chaucer's Grove, in this neighbourhood, was the residence of the poet so named. At Newbury, as at Reading, the woollen trade hath once greatly flourished, but is now on the decline. It hath plentiful and large markets, and many families of distinction have seats near it. At entering to it on the right is Sir Thomas Andrews's, bart.; near to the town, on the left, is the Montague's, Bacon's, Nevill's, and Earl Caernarvon's; at passing from it are the Bullock's, Pierce's, Bebbs's, Blackshaw's, Parry's, and Col. Stead's. The Walker's, Hulbert's, Penn's, Wyld's, Houlditch's, St. Quintin's, and the noble premises of Benham, all these are observed from the pleasant hill of Speen so passed. And from the same eminence may be observed some remains of Donnington castle, once of such consequence: it stood a siege of three weeks in one of the battles just noticed, when 1000 shot are said to have been expended against its walls;—at a farther distance in this way are the Nunee's and Dundas's; also at a distance on the left may be observed the dignified remains of Hempstead Park, the former residence and present possession of the Earl Craven.

Before coming to Hungerford, at a short distance to the left, is the modern neat seat of the Willis's, and about the same distance from it on the right is that of the Pierce's; Hungerford, and the other towns situated within the valley of Kennet, have latterly had their commerce much mended by the line of a new canal, which is formed to connect the navigation of the river Thames with the Wiltshire Avon. The streams of the Kennet here are often rapid, and are much resorted to by anglers for its celebrated trout. By lengthening the road for a few miles, between Hungerford and Marlborough, agreeably to the line of the river Kennet, the pleasures of this journey are greatly enlarged. The handsome village of Ramsbury is this way, and the antique mansions of the Popham's and Sir Francis Burdet's.

At Froxfield, the next village upon the high road to Bath, there is a spacious and noble structure, which hath been founded from the charity of a Duchess of Somerset, for the home and support of the widows of clergymen, who are not otherwise provided for. At a short ride from hence is Great Bedwin, celebrated for its antient fortifications, a part of which is now visible. Severnake forest, next passed, is 12 miles in circumference; its woods form some of the most extensive vistas that are in nature, and direct

* See Appendix. † See Plan.

the strangers from its centre, and other remarkable stations, to its several bounds. The proprietor of this is the Earl of Aylesbury, who hath a princely mansion here, and in the same bounds is the handsome lodge in the possession of his son Lord Bruce, by a steep descent in the road the traveller is hurried from these premises to an open and extensive view of the vast Marlborough Downs. The vale of Kennet also extends each way from the foot of this, where is also the town of Marlborough, partly sloping from the skirts of a neighbouring down, and otherways edged by the varying course of the river Kennet. The buildings of this town are mostly ranged in a long street, which is the thoroughfare to Bath, &c. It hath considerable markets, and many respectable shops of trade; among its large inns, one is notable for having been once in use as the habitation of a Duke of Somerset. Near the first part of the passage from Marlborough, upon the left, is a neat house of the Clerk's; at Fyefield is the Bourton's, and where a bye-road passes by the Bruce's Arms public-house, the traveller may visit a noted monument of antiquity, commonly called the Devil's Den. Brokly Lodge, General St. John's, is also in this last direction.

The following are the credited descriptions of the antiquities observed in this stage: "Small circular trenches, with a little elevation in the middle, are supposed to be the antient Druids' burying places or barrows. The long oblong barrows, some with trenches round them, some without, are arch druids' barrows; plain round barrows, (common all over England,) some may be Roman, some Saxon, and some Danish or British barrows; those of a bell form, with ditches round them, are king's barrows. Other barrows for kings have been described, some of them extremely old, broad, and flat, as if sunk by age: in these have been found human bones, amber, glass beads, gold rings, burnt bones, pieces of brass, spear heads, bits of iron, urns with ashes, brass trinkets, weapons, bones of horses and other animals. They are generally of a very elegant appearance and are done with great nicety. Fifty of the small tumuli above named have been seen at a time on the elevated parts of the neighbouring Salisbury Plain, when the sloping rays of the sun has shone on the ground beyond them. Those thus united to one space are considered, not the tumultuary burials of the slain, but as the sepulchres of the kings, or great personages family burying places, the variety of them noting the difference of the persons, their orders, stations, &c. Where such vast labour hath been used in the monuments of rude stones, it must be considered the work of the Druids, as temples for the worship of the Deity, where they worshipped by sacrifice, for astronomical or theological uses, and some ornamented their sepulchres.

On the right, near this passage, there is one of the most curious specimens of the latter works in the kingdom. It is called by country people the grey weathers; some of these may be observed aside a by-road which crosses this I am describing, in its way unto the village of Abery, at which village there is a display of them, only rivalled by that at Stonehenge. The ancients have also singularly marked some parts of the chain of hills so passed by stripping the turf from the white soil, agreeable to the outline of a drawing of a horse of immense size; they were designed to commemorate certain victories that were obtained near the spot. Such imitation hath been lately made near unto where this road descends from them in its way to Calne; it is correctly formed, and is a very amusing object to a great distance of country. Upon the right of this, and upon a woodland height, which connects these downs unto a more level country that lies from hence toward the north and west, is the pleasant residence of the Heneager's, and on the left is Blackland House, the Maundrel's. Near Calne we observe the country to be thickly set with the mills, spinning houses, warehouses, and other buildings, appertaining to the great woollen manufactories of this and the adjoining counties of Gloucester and Somerset. We are indebted to Edward III. for this powerful aid to our industry, who encouraged and protected a number of clothiers from the Netherlands, unto which place our raw wool was previously exported; he appointed them settlements in various parts of the kingdom, whereat to practise and teach their art, and from this policy, aided by the genius and industry of the people, the infant manufactories soon spread to unexpected maturity and extent. According to history, the first stations of them were in the counties of Middlesex, Kent, Gloucester, Somerset, and York, but they have since branched to more favoured situations. Its prosperous establishment in this part of the country is attributed to the waters of the river Avon, being particularly favourable for dying colours. Calne is a considerable town for trade; it was a place of the Saxons, and many marks of its antiquity are remaining. A beautiful range of well cultivated highlands form themselves the whole of the space between Calne and Devizes, and where a handsome brow of them bends to a view of those Wiltshire downs I just now described, is Bow Wood, the Marquis of Lansdown's; in another portion of them, facing the west, is the seat of Sir Andrew Baynton.

At Studly, hereafter passed, there was anciently a station of the Romans. Chippenham hath several genteel inhabitants, the principal of which are concerned in the wool-trade; it hath a good market, commodious inns, and a neat stone bridge is made to pass the river Avon. Here the waters of this river wind a copious and placid stream for some way about the place, and it is farther skirted with some pleasant tracks of meadow lands and improved plantations. Much of the latter appertain to the seat of Mr. Humphrey's, which is on the left at leaving the place; on the other hand is the Guy's, another at farther passage from the place is the Hooper's. A large park hereafter for some way edges the road on one side, at the extremity of which, and near the populous village of Horsham, is the noble and improved mansion of the Mathewen's. Several genteel dwellings attach to the place here named, the principal of which are, the Stump's, Arnal's, Lewis's, Moore's, Harman's. At Pickwick, next passed, are the Prier's, Ogle's, Dickenson's, and at a distance on the right, the handsome seat of the Rook's. At Box, the Morris's, the Collins's, Northerley's, Jefferies's, Davies's; and right of the road, between the last village and Bath Easton, is a new mansion of the Wiltshire's. Bath Easton, Bathford, and Bath Hampton, are upon the borders of the river Avon, and near unto the spot many travellers separate from this road, to pass by way of Devizes to Bath. The seats near this spot are, the Yeales's, Arundel's, Pickwick's, Baugh's, and Williams's. Thus every way near the entrance to Bath, a countless variety of handsome edifices and ranks of dwellings gradually prepare the eye for the splendid prospects of this celebrated city. Its station, like the river Avon and road which approach to it, are within such umbrageous foldings, and in such a pleasing recess, as in ancient times, ere busy population had intruded, we might evidently have traced those abodes of peace the hermits selected, or such as the poets have delineated for the residence of Sylvanus, and their several pastoral goddesses. In the road I just noticed that passes by Devizes, is Wansdyke, a vast entrenchment, running across this country from east to west, supposed to have been cast up by the Saxons, for a boundary between them and the Mercians, or for their defence against the incursions of the Britons. Near the entrance to Devizes is seen Stoke Park, the Sutton's. Devizes is supposed to have its name from the division of it, between a former king and bishop of Salisbury. A single trenched camp is aside it, overlooking the place, and various Roman remains have been found. The castle is by some attributed to Alfred; some attribute it to the Romans; Leland describes it to have stood on the south side the town, advanced upon high ground, and defended with dikes, and attributes the work to Roger bishop of Sarum. The keep or dungeon was on a hill cast up by hand, it was esteemed by some the most costly and splendid work of its sort. Seats that are contiguous to the way from Devizes to Bath, are those of Stoke Park, the Smith's, Lord W. Seymour's; and near the small town of Melksham, which the road also passes, is the Thresher's, the Neal's, and the Heathcote's. A forest is described to have been at Melksham, in the reign of Edward the Ist. A canal is lately made to pass by it from Calne. The river Avon also bounds it, and it hath some considerable cloth manufactories, a small market, and decent inns. At two miles before reaching Bathford, this road ascends the engaging height of Kingdown, remarkable for its rich prospects; those seen at the first approach of it, are a line of highlands, which shew left of the road stretching from the east to west, and are a border of the vast Salisbury Plain. The great conical entrenched hills of Scratchbury and Battlebury are marking features about the midway of them, near which are the towns of Westbury and Warminster. At their termination westward is the notable land-mark called Alfred's tower. Within the circle here described are also the populous and wealthy manufacturing towns of Trowbridge and Blandford. From the summit of this down, which is about a mile from Bathford, there is another most engaging view into those vales I described in the way from Chippenham to Bath, and unto the vicinities of Bristol and the borders of Wales. The bye-road I have noticed, passing from the general one through Trowbridge and Bradford to Bath, branches from this near Lord Seymour's just now named, and passes thence through the village of Seend, by way of an agreeable rise of lands to the first named town. In this way are seats of the Awbry's, Robson's, Lock's, Hill's, and Mortimer's. At Trowbridge, a stone bridge crosses the river Were; it is reported to have once had a castle with seven towers, but it appears to have been totally down in Leland's time. The lords of the place were the Earls of Sarum, the Dukes of Lancaster, and the Earls of Hertford; it hath great trade in clothing, several families of independence, considerable markets, and good inns. Bradford is only two miles from this, and for local situations is very similar to it. It is situated on the river Avon. Here was a monastery, which

was destroyed by the Danes. In this neighbourhood are seats of the Jones's, Halliday's, Metheuen's, Baskerfield's, Johnston's, the late Duke of Kingston's, and the Rogers's. One of those remarkable antiquities of "The White Horse," which I noticed in my way from Marlborough to Calne, is seen through much of this latter passage; it is in an erect position, and is 54 feet high from his toe to his chest; from the ear to the tail is 100 feet. It is supposed to be first formed by order of King Alfred, to commemorate his conquest over the Danes. The summits of the hills on which it appears are far set with entrenchments, and they are much frequented on account of their extensive views.

Passing from Bradford to Bath, the road often climbs those smooth prominences that every way so agreeably collect to the vicinity of this latter city. Near to the pleasant little village of Stoke, just passed, it again finds the river Avon, and for a short way courses with its streams. The slopes of high lands are here more thickly set with wood than usual, and the waters have more agreeable action than I have elsewhere found in them. Beside the village last named, neat houses of the Newton's, Dyde's, and Fisher's, ornament the border of the river here. Others seen at a distance from it, are the Forsot's and Davis's. From the height of Combdown, next approached, there is a most comprehensive view of Bath, and from hence the summits of many other adjacent downs partially greet the eye; all have smooth levels of pasturage, and are thus particularly agreeable for the perambulations of the neighbouring inhabitants.

Arrived within the centre of the ancient city of Bath, the first public buildings that challenge the attention of a stranger are, its principal baths, pump-rooms, &c. all which are rich specimens of useful modern architecture. Nearly adjoining is the Abbey Church: the great door at the principal entrance, with its adjoining ornaments, are a grand display of ancient sculptural ornamental devising, and there are within this building very costly records of this art in later days. The town hall, some assembly rooms, libraries, commodious parades, and the theatre, are also near this spot. The principal assembly room is in the upper part of the town; this was finished in 1771, at an expense of nearly 20,000*l.*: the ball room is 106 feet in length, 43 in breadth. In this part of the place are also the principal squares, crescents, circuits of houses, and streets of the most fashionable residents. Passing from the centre of the town by Pulteney Bridge, a spacious area of the vale that is on the east of Avon is occupied with another fashionable suburb of the place. The principal dwellings of this are Argyle Buildings, Laura Place, and Pulteney Street. Sidney Gardens, also attaching, is a rural promenade that is much frequented by the fashionable pedestrians. The lower bosom of High Common, Barton Fields, and some of the breasts of Lansdown Hills, are their more distant walks. Beside the abbey just named, other churches are, St. Michael, Walcot, and Christ's Church, a chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, St. Margaret's Chapel, All Saints Chapel, Kensington Chapel, the Octagon, Laura Chapel, the Little Chapel, and chapels for every class of dissenters. It hath also several largely endowed public hospitals and charity schools of all descriptions. The Stranger's Friend Society, and the General Hospital for any of the sick poor of the united kingdom, who are afflicted with disorders which the efficacy of the hot-bath waters are likely to remove, are establishments that particularly honour this place, while they also honour human nature. The extraordinary virtues of these waters (aided by favours from the nobility of the kingdom, and industry of the inhabitants to promote the use of them) have latterly acquired complete celebrity; and their salutary effects are now so universally known and acknowledged, that princes, and the principal nobility of this and every country, are every day attracted to the place. It was known to the ancient Britons, and the discovery of these remarkable springs is by the first historians attributed to Bladud, the son of Lud Hudibras, a king of the country 890 years before the birth of Christ. In the year of our Lord 44, the Romans, informed by the natives such convalescent waters flowed with spontaneous force from the bowels of a rude uncultivated spot of earth, quickly roused their curiosity, and directed their attention to it for settlements. They gave it the appellation of *Aqua Solis, i. e.* the Water of the Sun, and erected most superb baths, sudatory temples, mausoleums, &c. and made it their most capital city in Roman Britain. The Romans leaving it about 444, the Britons possessed it until 577, when it was taken by the Saxons, and hath since undergone the various revolutions to which every city was subject in the succeeding centuries, until we find it garrisoned

for King Charles I. and the sum of 7000*l.* expended in repairing its fortifications. Edgar was crowned here, and a religious house was erected by Osrick, a king of Northumberland, which was demolished in the early wars, but was afterwards rebuilt and endowed by the Mercian king Offa. A Bishop of Wells is found to have built a palace here, repaired the monastery, and adorned the city with various other buildings.

The post road passes from Bath, in its way to Bristol, by Horse Street, from which it continues to traverse, nearly with the course of the river Avon, to the small village of Twiverton. Other villages in this stage are, Keynsham and Brislington. At about two miles travel hereon, a handsome scene extends from the road northward; it contains much space of level meadow-land, some graceful courses of the river Avon, and a neat stone bridge of one arch majestically striding that river, over these is the conspicuous seat and park of the Hawkins's, some of the village of Kelson, and some towering heights of Lansdown and Weston Hills. Near the village of Salford, which is next seen, to the right of this road is a seat of the Browning's. In other ways, through the beginning of this stage, are the Langton's and Ireland's. Departing from the populous village of Keynsham, the ancient mansion of Criswick shews itself amidst some tall wood that is on the opposite border of the Avon.

Attaching to the rich village of Brislington, hereafter passed, and near the other ways from hence to Bristol, are the Ireland's, Hurle's, Bush's, Willoughby's, Priscot's, Ricket's, Powel's, Mazey's, Hill's, and Cave's. Those who have not before visited this town are often struck with agreeable surprise at its appearance from some parts of this entrance to it: this effect is partly produced by the dignified situations of its public buildings, and from the singular stations of its dwellings, which are covering some slopes of land that line the river, and towering the heights above it.

Another road is sometimes used in passing from Bath to Bristol, which is nearly the same length as that now described; it leads from Bath by the way of Monmouth Street, and is called the upper road. In some parts this is made to wind the breasts of those highlands that I before remarked, arising from the northern borders of the river Avon, near Bath; sometimes it associates with the course of that river like the last described, and in much other of its way it crosses, or is inclosed with a multiplicity of small hills, such as characterise the adjacent country. Where it passes the village of Hanham, there is a very interesting prospect into Somersetshire, Gloucestershire, and the borders of Wales, and here also is a better distant view than is otherways found of the city of Bristol, comprehending Clifton, and many celebrated heights that bound other portions of the vale of Avon, with some that attach to the river Froome, and to Bristol hotwells. The house of the Parker's was passed on a pleasant bank upon the right side the way at the beginning of this stage. At the village of Bitton, which is near the mid-way of it, is the Rev. Mr. Curtis's; farther are some iron works and seats of the Piersall's. Bristol is a city known from remote antiquity, both as a military station and a place of merchandize and trade. In its ancient charter it is called a royal and free city. Its first buildings were protected with a strong castle, and otherwise defended with strong walls, whilst the streams of the river Avon and the Froome also closely environed it. In its latter more enlarged state, it hath been compared to ancient Rome, its plan being nearly circular, with a greater diameter on one way than the other, whilst the water cut off about a sixth part from the rest; also as it stands on seven hills, and its principal river the Avon is rapid and yellow like the Tiber. After a run of eight miles from hence, this river confluxes with the Severn Sea, and thus a navigation is opened to the ocean and all foreign ports, to the home trade of Somersetshire, Devonshire, Cornwall, South Wales, the cities of Gloucester, Hereford, Worcester, and the numberless other towns that are situated on the several rivers of the Severn, Wye, and Usk. Until the great increase of the manufactories of Lancashire and Yorkshire recently rendered Liverpool such particular advantages, this town had the next importance to London, and the continued attention of its inhabitants to these privileges hath long ago raised them to such a state of opulence and credit as is not perhaps rivalled by those of any town except a metropolis throughout Europe.

There are few places display a greater shew of stately Gothic churches and other public buildings than are here, and as most of them possess those elevations which the natural variety of the land affords, they every way produce particular grandeur to the general views of the place. The streets too of its fashionable residents are mostly elevated along

the moderate slopes or towering heights, that are rising in so many directions, and otherwise promote the interest of its view.

There are eighteen churches, the principal of which, the cathedral, or St. Augustine's, was anciently a monastery, but was dissolved by Henry VIII. and erected into the see of a bishop; this is situated upon a hill, which is on the further side of Froome from the old city, in what is called College Green, and here are also many fashionable dwellings of the merchants. St. Mary's, or Redcliff Church, was built in the reign of Henry VI. by W. Cannings, an alderman of the city; it is a most stately and costly Gothic structure, and ornaments an eminent part of the town, which is situated on the other side the Avon, as this city is entered from the lower Bath road. The principal hot-well of Bristol, and which hath such universal celebrity for the salutary virtues of its waters is about a quarter of a mile westward from the boundary of the place; it is on the eastern side the river Avon, beneath some immense cliffs, and rises forcibly out of an aperture in the solid rock, at about twenty-six feet below the high water mark of the river, and ten feet above that of low water! The stream is perfectly warm, and so copious as to discharge sixty gallons in a minute. The chief time for drinking these waters, is from March to September, during which they are much visited. Here are two sets of public rooms, and three hotels, and many handsome piles of fashionable freestone houses are erected for the accommodation of the numerous nobility and gentry who attend the place.

On some western hills, which top the cliffs of the river, is one of the most pleasant rides in the kingdom; and the air of this place is so remarkably pure, salubrious, and restorative, that it has been long ago, and by various authors, styled the Montpelier of England. It commands a pleasing prospect over the western parts of the city, and of the Avon, which when full, with the vessels sailing up or down, adds much to the beauty of the scene. On the opposite side there is the agreeable, well-cultivated, and picturesque part of Somersetshire.

Sion Spring, or the upper hotwell, is situated on a brow of this eminence, rising from the depth of 246 feet from the surface. The water of this is found to be nearly the same as that of the lower well, and there hath been a spacious pump-room erected here for those who wish to try the external as well as internal use of these salutary waters*. Beside the hill just described, the summits of most others that are near Clifdon, and which look with such particular interest to the city and plain below, are left open, and made commodious for the walks of health-breathing invalids and pedestrian tourists; and on the adjoining downs is full scope for the hardiest exercises of the equestrian. Clifton Hill, which connects this city with the hotwells, is covered far over with houses and gardens, which in the downward view sink step by step to the margin of the Froome. Brandon Hill beneath this, affords a most comprehensive view of the more internal parts of the town. On another below stood the old city, the walls of which were nearly circular, and had five or six gates. Another, attaching to this and the centre of the town, was that on which the castle was elevated. The village of Clifton, with its vicinities, as above described, hath been pronounced indubitably one of the most pleasant, healthy, and elegant in the kingdom; few places are more distinguished for the elevation and airiness of the situation.

That my present labour may prove as useful as possible to such as possess my Picturesque Guide through Wales, I have added the following sketch of the way from hence to the new passage over Severn, where that work commences. The villages of Westbury, Compton, and Greenfield, are in this way. The seats near it are Lord Clifford's, the Wedgwood's, Gordon's, Cruger's, and Worral's, whilst countless others ornament the contiguous villages, and elegant varieties of landscape that at all points ornament the first part of this passage, most of which are raised for retirements to the wealthy merchants of the neighbouring city. On Kingsdown, so passed, are some ancient Roman fortifications,

* For a further description of the effects and uses of these waters, or those of Bath, and for the more compendious account of their situation, &c. I refer my reader to the historic and local New Bath Guide.

which, with others that are on the Somerset side the Avon, are judged to have been formed by the soldiers of that legion which was commanded by Ostorius. From other heights there are some of the richest and best variegated prospects in the kingdom, shewing in many directions the highlands of Wilts, Gloucester, Somerset, Monmouth, and Glamorgan; immense lines of the variegated shores that immediately edge the Bristol Channel, the Severn, mouth of the Avon, and the vast collection of tides and streams which form the Severn sea:

Here the ascent, with softest verdure cloth'd,
Prolongs the view to where the trembling trees
Shut up th' horizon; on th' adverse side,
In stern magnificence, the beetling clifts
With shades and sand embrown the deep; and there,
Emergent only o'er the falling tides,
Big masses rise "of merchant-marring rocks,"
Whose craggy cones "in the mind's eye" assume
The hoary semblance of Palmyra fall'n,
Or desolated Athens, "Eye of Greece."
With vacant features, rapt in thoughtless mood,
See listless sailors pois'd on flitting trows *,
Which thinly scatter'd speck the spacious frith!
But now the stronger gushes of the tide
Rouze their lethargic strength, and all is bustle.
Hark! how the rattling blocks, the flutt'ring sails,
And fighting waves, and intermingled shouts,
Wake cavern'd Echo!

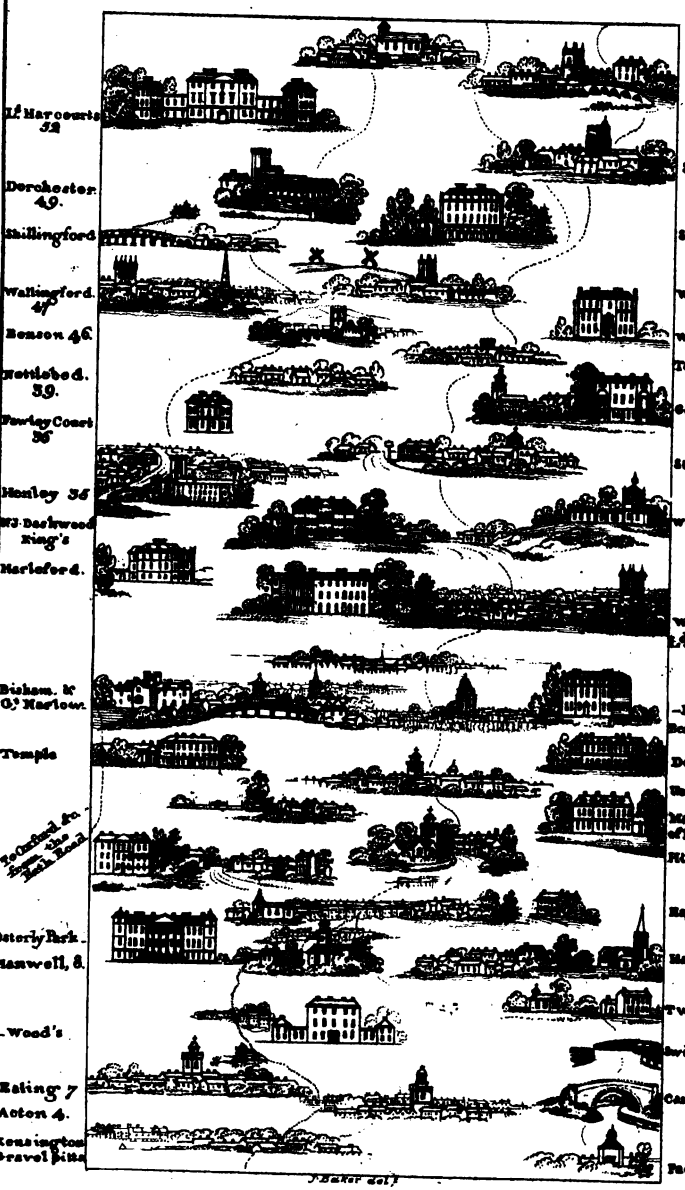
See Picturesque Guide through Wales, vol. i. p. 6.

LONDON TO OXFORD AND BRISTOL,

CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTER, MALVERN WELLS, WORCESTER, &c.

IN the bad weather of winter, much of this road, from the imperfections of its materials, its low situations, or neglect of the trust, is incommodious for travelling; in dry seasons it is preferred to that southward of it, both by men of business, who have connections with the large cities and towns where it leads, and by travellers of pleasure, in their way to the engaging scenes of Cheltenham, Malvern, the borders of the rivers Severn, Wye, and those in the midland and western parts of Wales, that are my next pursuit. At the beginning of the first stage from London, a long range of handsome dwellings incloses the road on one side, which overlook a part of Hyde Park. Opposite them, a line of fence to this and the royal gardens of Kensington, guides the road to Kensington Gravel Pits. The seats of fashion in this village are, the Davison's, Lowther's, Robinson's, Smith's, Velemy's, and Macdonalds: others, that are passed between this village and Acton, are Colonel Buller's and Lady Strange's. The remarkable objects that are observed in the distance from hence are, some of the bridges, warehouses, and other works, which appertain to the grand junction canal at its termination by Paddington, near London. This canal, besides its general uses (which I before described) of conveying merchandize and articles of traffic and consumption to the metropolis and the

* The craft so called, which navigate the river Severn, and which can only pass to Bristol with the tides.



London Published Aug.t 1802 by J. Baker.

inland counties, is here found of great convenience to convey the people from town on their rural excursions to the several villages that are contiguous to it: for this purpose a passage boat is constructed that will accommodate upwards of an hundred persons; it passes and repasses daily between Uxbridge and London. The conspicuous villages of Hampstead and Highgate appear at farther distance; and on the same hand is Harrow on the Hill, a place greatly admired not only for its school, but also for its extensive prospects and pleasant situation *. In the intermediate spaces between these and the great road, more extensive inclosures of grass lands are suffered to remain undisturbed by the builder, agriculturist, or gardener, than in any way so near London.

Acton derives its name from the Saxon word (ac) which is said to have once greatly abounded. The principal dwellers at this place are, the Clutton's, Selby's, Antrobus's, Pain's, Way's, Harvey's, and Wegg s. Acton Well had once repute for the virtues of its mineral waters. Gunnersbury House, once of this neighbourhood, was the work of Inigo Jones, and the residence of the late princess Amelia.

Abundant specimens of elegant architecture and rural designing crowd the landscape next in view. Castlebear and Hanger Hill, to the right, are occupied with the gay premises of the Wood's, Smith's, Meaux's, Denison's, and the Duke of Kent's. In the rich village of Ealing, opposite these, on the left hand, are Lord Kinnard's, Lord Galloway's, Lord Mountmorris's, the Stephenson's, Halifax's, Deacon's, Way's, Slone's, Fletcher's, Nichol's, Car's, &c. At Little Ealing is Sir Charles Morgan's, Sir James Wright's, the Jaden's, Drinkwater's, Fisher's, and Mathew's. At Drayton Green, on the right, before coming to Hanwell, are some neat houses of the Fell's, Almine's, Morse's, and Martindale's. At Hanwell, the Heanington's, Baldwin's, Glass's, Frowne's George's, Smith's, and Dunning's. The streams of the river Brent, which the road here passes, have agreeably broken the lands near this place; whilst the eminences of Harrow, just named, the woods of Osterly, and the Park, also approach as pleasant offscapes to them. The park last named hath the same proprietor as Osterly; the present inhabitant is Lord Seymour. The village of Southall, notwithstanding its mean appearance, hath a weekly market for cattle and sheep, and two annual fairs. Dawly, on the left of this, was the residence of the great Lord Bolingbroke. At Hays, seen near the ensuing part of the road, are the Heath's, Comb's, Hampton's, Morley's, Blinco's, and Desselle's. Attaching to Hillingdon are the Talbot's, Pope's, King's, Freeman's, Cockbourne's, Pipin's, Hillyard's, Evans's, and the Marchioness of Rockingham's.

Uxbridge is arranged principally in one street, that is near a mile in length: it hath remarkable large markets for corn, and many wealthy dealers in that article inhabit the place. The town hall is a handsome structure, the church a simple gothic; near these are also the principal inns and shops of trade. The grand junction canal, after its track that I have noticed, through Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire, paces with the river Coln for some miles of its way to this town; and at that end of it which borders these rivers are several fashionable dwellings, large corn mills, warehouses, and wharfs. Trinity House, so situated, (now converting into an inn) is remarkable to historians from the commissioners of Charles I. and those of the parliament here holding their fruitless negotiation.

At the commencement of an agreeable rise of land, that for some way stretches aside the beds of the waters above named, are seats of the Harris's. Farther than this, over Uxbridge Common, are the Clerk's, Bracken's, and the Eades's. At Denham, which is seen at a short way on the passage from the town, is the Wey's.; at Denham Court, which is in the same direction, are the Thomson's. There is an eminent part of the road thus passed, at which, by looking backward, the stranger gains the most pleasing view: nearest the eye is Uxbridge, and those heights I have described near it; at distance are great spaces on the level lands bordering the river Coln in its passage toward the Thames.

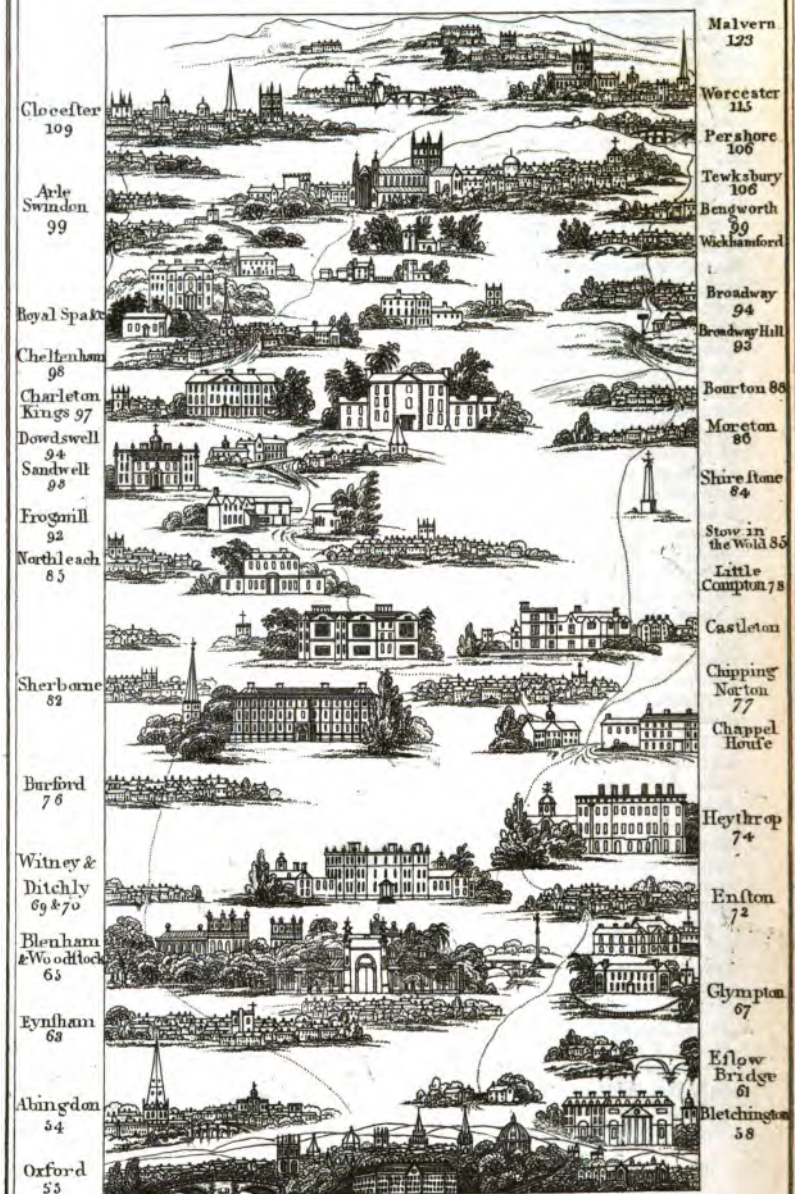
Near Jerrard's Cross, hereafter passed, the fence to the extensive premises of Bulstrode, Duke of Portland's, for some distance walls the way on one side; and conti-

* See Guide through Egham, Staines, &c. to Aylesbury.

gnous to the small town of Beaconsfield are the Dupre's, Burke's, Wandsworth's, and Wood's : and here was the residence of Waller the poet, unto whose memory a monument is erected in the church-yard. There is a small slingit of meadow land running parallel with some of the road which I have just passed, and a nameless rivulet artfully steals through it from the village of Chalfont to the streams of the Coln; near these a deviation may be made from the post road I am describing to one that runs from hence to Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire, thus passing a constant succession of the most engaging scenery, as well through the above vallies as in its whole way to the Vale of Aylesbury: Through this last named is also the direction of an interesting tour to the source of the river Thames, to the seat of Lord Chesterfield, and to Ryecot, Lord Abingdon's, again to meet this road at Wheatly Bridge. A handsome part of the vale of Chalfont, so passed, is decorated with many tasteful improvements by the Hibbert's, (Chalfont House). Near this is also a seat of the Lloyd's. Some collected pools of water, and some pleasant runlets of the brook just noticed, continue to ornament the road in many miles of its way, and it is on every side bounded with the most pleasing uplands. The upper covering of the hills is a succession of those rich beach groves which always appertain to the chalky soils of this line of country; and these are also more than ordinarily intersected with rich arables. A short way beyond Wendover, where these uplands terminate, there are some beautiful breasts and shelves, in their descents from each of which the traveller, by a short rest, hath a complete view of Aylesbury, with the broad vale named after it immediately beneath him; also many other fertile levels of this county and that of Bedford adjoining. Velvet Bottom and Old Warren are two scenes that lie on the right and left of this latter described passage, that particularly charm the stay of the visitors; the last is also remarkable for its entertaining echoes. Looking from the Vale of Aylesbury, at a few miles travel from hence, those heights above named, appear in even rank with those I noticed near Dunstable in my first tour, and to some which I have to pass in my next progress on the post road to Oxford. The towns which are passed in this cross road are, Amersham, Wendover, Aylesbury, and Thame; the villages, Great and Little Missenden. The seats are those of the Drake's, Sir John Russel's, Sir William Lee's, and Sir John Dashwood's; others of less note are, the Divon's, Ludley's, Hussey's, Holdham's, Chalmer's, Lovel's, Acre's, Wollan's, Burrels, Sturt's, Grant's, Collet's, Jones's, and Stacie's.

The road from Beaconsfield to Wycomb in two miles descends to the Valley of Loadwater Brook; a clear rivulet of the same name often entertains the eye; it is notable for giving action to a vast number of paper mills. Near the seat of Lord Carrington, at High Wycomb, and near the seat of Sir John Dashwood King, that is at West Wycomb, these streams by ingenious frugality are collected into many pleasing ornaments to the extensive pleasure grounds of such premises. High Wycomb hath a neat church, with good inns, and there is lately established a large military college. The church and town hall are both handsome edifices, and it had once an hospital for lepers. Tesselated pavements and many Roman coins have been found at this place. West Wycomb is a small inconsiderable village, but is greatly ornamented by the tasteful buildings every way surrounding the noble premises that adjoin to it; these are mostly designed by its late proprietor Lord le Dispencer, who also erected the church, that so strikingly dignifies a small hill rising suddenly from the road: the ball which so conspicuously decorates the summit of this is said to be large enough to contain six people.

Leaving the valley just passed, the road ascends a steep woodland country; but having passed the village of Stoken Church, and obtained the brow of what is called Aston Hill, a large prospect opens suddenly upon the eye, which includes, besides the spacious Vale of Aylesbury, much of the border of the river Thames from its source to the town of Wallingford, and a very large scope of the counties of Oxford, Berks, and Buckingham. On the left of the passage from hence to Wheatley is Wheatfield, Lord Charles Spencer's. Coming near Wheatley two seats are conspicuous: on the right, the Curzon's and Ashhurst's. Holten Park House, the antient seat of the Parker's (where Cromwell resided) is concealed within thick groves, opposite the village of Wheatley so passed. A short way beyond, in a like recess, is the seat of —— Schutz, esquire.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From hence to Oxford a very interesting prospect may be made, by a small deviation from the main track to the summit of Shotover Hill; it reaches into much of Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Wiltshire, and Gloucestershire, also upon a great range of the picturesque heights I noticed in my way hither. Some mines were formerly worked here; and at Hedington, near it, there is said to have been a royal nursery in the Saxon times. The residence of King Ethelred, at Forest Hill, which lies between this and a road I shall hereafter describe leading from Wheatly (the old and more direct way) to Worcester, is Forest Hill, once the residence of Milton, at which he wrote his Paradise Regained. Besides the handsome manor house of Heddington, there are other neat seats of the Finche's, Jones's, and Lack's.

The sketch of Oxford for the engraved plan is taken from what is called, Heddington Hill, and where the road hath a hasty decent from thence to the borders of the river Charwell, and the edge of the town. The principal part of the dwellings of this place are here concealed from the eye amidst the wide shades of luxuriant elm groves and vistas. This was a place of consequence to the early Romans, and was burned by the Danes in 973, and in 1009. In the year 1013, Sweyn laid waste the country round it, and thus frightened the citizens into a surrender of the place; it was again burned by the Danes in 1032, and Harold Harefoot, who was afterwards crowned here, seems to have also greatly oppressed the place.

It was taken in 1067 by William the Conqueror, who gave it to D'Oyley, his son, by whom it was fortified. The empress Maud was so closely besieged in this fortification by king Stephen, that she was forced to escape by night, by means of a frost, across the river Thames, and thence amidst the enemy, through a deep snow, for six miles on foot. Much of the castle and other fortifications still remain within, and many entrenched works are without the town, worthy of inspection. King Henry I. built a palace here, where Richard Cœur de Lion was born. It is represented to have been the seat of learning for the early Britons. A monastery was founded here by St. Frideswide, in the time of the Saxons. This was destroyed. It was rebuilt by King Ethelred, after which King Alfred founded three colleges, one for philosophy, another for grammar, and a third for divinity; hence other establishments of the same kind were rapidly raised, and its reputation as a place of virtuous learning, literature, and the useful arts, drew to it, so early as the reign of King John, 3000 students! The university is principally governed by a chancellor, who is chosen by the students, a high steward, and a vice chancellor; it contains twenty colleges and five halls. Of the first, are, 1st. *Baliol College*, founded in the year 1269, by John Baliol, father to a king of Scotland so named. 2d. *Merton College*, by Walter de Merton, bishop of Rochester, and lord chancellor of England, in 1267. 3d. *University College*, supposed one of Alfred's establishments before named, restored or advanced by a legacy of an archdeacon of Durham, in 1260. 4th. *Exeter College*, founded by William Stapleton, bishop of Exeter, 1314. 5th. *Oriol College*, founded by Adam de Brome, almoner to Edward II. and Edward III. 1324. 6th. *Queen's College*, ascribed to queen Phillipa, or to her chaplain Robert de Eglesfield. 7th. *New College*, founded by the great William Wykham, 1379. 8th. *Trinity College*, the prior and the monks of Durham. 9th. *Lincoln College*, Richard Fleming, bishop of Lincoln, 1427. 10th. *Worcester College*, Sir Thomas Coke, of Bently, in Worcestershire. 11th. *St John's College*, Sir Thomas White, alderman, and master taylor, of London, 1557. 12th. *All Souls College*, Henry Chicheley, archbishop of Canterbury, 1438. 13th. *Magdalen College*, William Pullen, bishop of Winchester, 1458. 14th. *Brazen-nose College*, Richard Smith, bishop of Lincoln, and Richard Sulton, of Presbury in Cheshire, 1509. 15th. *Corpus Christi College*, Richard Fox, who was successively bishop of Exeter, Bath and Wells, Durham, and Winchester, and lord of the privy seal to Henry VII. and Henry VIII. 1516. 16th. *Christ Church College*, Cardinal Wolsey, 1525. 17th. *Jesus College*, Queen Elizabeth, 1571. 18th. *Wadham College*, Nicholas Wadham, of Merifield, in Somersetshire, 1613. 19th. *Pembroke College*, Thomas Tesdale, of Glympton, in Oxfordshire, and Richard Wightwick, of Isley, Bucks, 1620. The five halls are,

1st. *Alban Hall*, contiguous to Merton College, was a house of learning in the time of Edward I. and received its name from Robert de St. Alban. 2d. *St. Edmund's Hall*, was first established by Edward III. and was consigned to Queen's College, 1557. 3d. *St. Mary's Hall*, appropriated by Edward III. to Oriol College. 4th. *Crew Inn Hall*, granted to

students by John Trillock, 1545. 5th. *Magdalen Hall*, contiguous to, and erected by the founder of the college of that name.

In Oxford, and its suburbs are fourteen parish churches, the principal of these are St. John's, All Saints, St. Peter's, and St. Mary's. St. Peter's was partly built by Grymbald, about 1000, and is supposed to have been the first stone building in that character in this part of the country. The tower and spire of St. Mary's forms a highly finished and curious fabric, and hath six remarkable large bells, mostly in use for scholastic exercises, convocations, and congregations. Other public establishments of note are a magnificent theatre, built nearly in the form of a Roman theatre, the roof of which is 80 feet by 70 wide, and rests upon the walls without pillars. Other curiosities are Asmole's Museum, Radcliff's Library, the Observatory, the Physic Garden, a noble market house, county gaol, its bridges, statues, busts, bas reliefs, paintings, &c. &c. &c. This hath often been the seat of royalty. The unfortunate king Charles held his court here during the civil wars, and several parliaments have been convened at this place. It hath, besides the heads of the university, a mayor, high steward, recorder, aldermen, &c.

Two miles west of Wolvercot, which is on the way from Oxford to Woodstock, upon an island in the Thames, are the ruins of Godstow Nunnery, first founded in Henry I. at which place Rosamond, the favourite of Henry II. is said to have been educated. The canal commonly called the Thames and Severn canal navigation, which hath been made to connect the commerce of these rivers, is crossed between Oxford and Woodstock. Seats that are approached this way are the Gardiner's, Dormer's, Page's, and Bowler's, and close to the entrance to Woodstock is the Walker's. This town, although small, hath many genteel inhabitants, several good inns, and carries on some trade in steel wares, leather, and gloves. The park and princely seat of Blenheim nearly adjoin the place. The parts of the building which appear in my engraven plan are seen as these premises are entered from the gate at Woodstock. In the same view are the bridge, the beautifully formed lake, meandering vale, rich lawns, avenues, and clustering grove, in short, all that is gay and rural in landscape, and all that is noble and costly in architecture. The entrance to the house is through a portal of martial architecture; within is a quadrangle of arcades and offices. The hall, which runs to the height of the house, and is of proportionable breadth, is supported by Corinthian pillars. The ornaments to this are a bust of the Duke of Marlborough, two statues in bronze, viz. the Venus de Medicis, and the Fauni; above, on the right and left, are several marble Termini, with two statues of a Nymph and Bacchanal. The ceiling is painted by Sir John Thornhill, and represents Victory crowning the Duke, and pointing to a plan of the battle of Blenheim. The front of this rich edifice is 348 feet from wing to wing. On the pediment of the south front, towards the garden, is a noble bust, larger than the life, of Lewis XIV. taken from the gates of Tournay. Its architecture throughout is of the grandest specimens. Its furniture and other internal decorations are costly and rare, particularly in pictures, statuary, &c. The library is 183 feet in length. The park, gardens, pleasure grounds, and water, everywhere answer the exquisite grandeur and extent of the dwelling. The whole was founded by Queen Anne, as a grant to the Duke of Marlborough for his great services to the nation as a soldier, particularly for the signal victory obtained over the French and Bavarians, near Blenheim, on the banks of the Danube; the particulars of which, with his other services and honours, are engraven on the pedestal of the column in the plan, on the top of which is also a statue of the Duke himself. The building was erected under the direction of Sir John Vanbrough; the various ornaments around were mostly added by Sarah, the wife of the Duke, and have been much improved by the descendants, among whom the industry of the present worthy possessor is particularly distinguishable. In the park, which is eleven miles in circumference, there is every attraction of nature, and every part hath engaged the attention of art. Within the bounds originally stood a royal palace, and here was also anciently an hospital, or almshouse.

After being guided a mile from Woodstock by the stone wall, circle of ever-greens, &c. which this way partly incloses the park of Blenheim and the road to Kiddington, the village church of Wotton and the figure of a monastic ruin draw the eye to the right; the latter object ornaments the premises of the Wheate's, of Glympton Park, situated on the side of the way. I shall here take occasion to notice, that separated from the

London road I last passed to Oxford, at the village of Wheatly, a road runs more direct to Gloucester, Worcester, &c. than that which is the post road. A very extensive prospect of level lands and distant heights, lying toward the north and south, are made from Stanton to Islip, and in the same views are transient prospects of Oxford, Woodstock, and Blenheim. At Blechington is a noble stone mansion of the Annesly's, and a short way to the right of this is another of the Dashwood's. The Oxford Canal Navigation that connects with all the greater designs of this kind before described, is found traversing the beautiful vale of Carwell, near Enslow Bridge. The Wheates's of Glympton, and the Moyston's of Kiddington, are found most desirable situations. Ditchly, near the village of Kiddington, on the other hand, is the noble seat of Lord Dillon; this is graced with a finely-wooded handsome park, pleasure grounds, and water, and within is a good collection of ancient paintings. Another such possession is Heythorp, the seat of Earl Shrewsbury, which is seen at a distance right of the road. After passing the village of Enstone, (some water works at this village are a curiosity) is Chapel House, so named from being the station of an ancient chapel, and burial place for pilgrims. At a distance on the left of the way thither, are seats of the Holloway's, the Duke of Beaufort's, and General Rooke's.

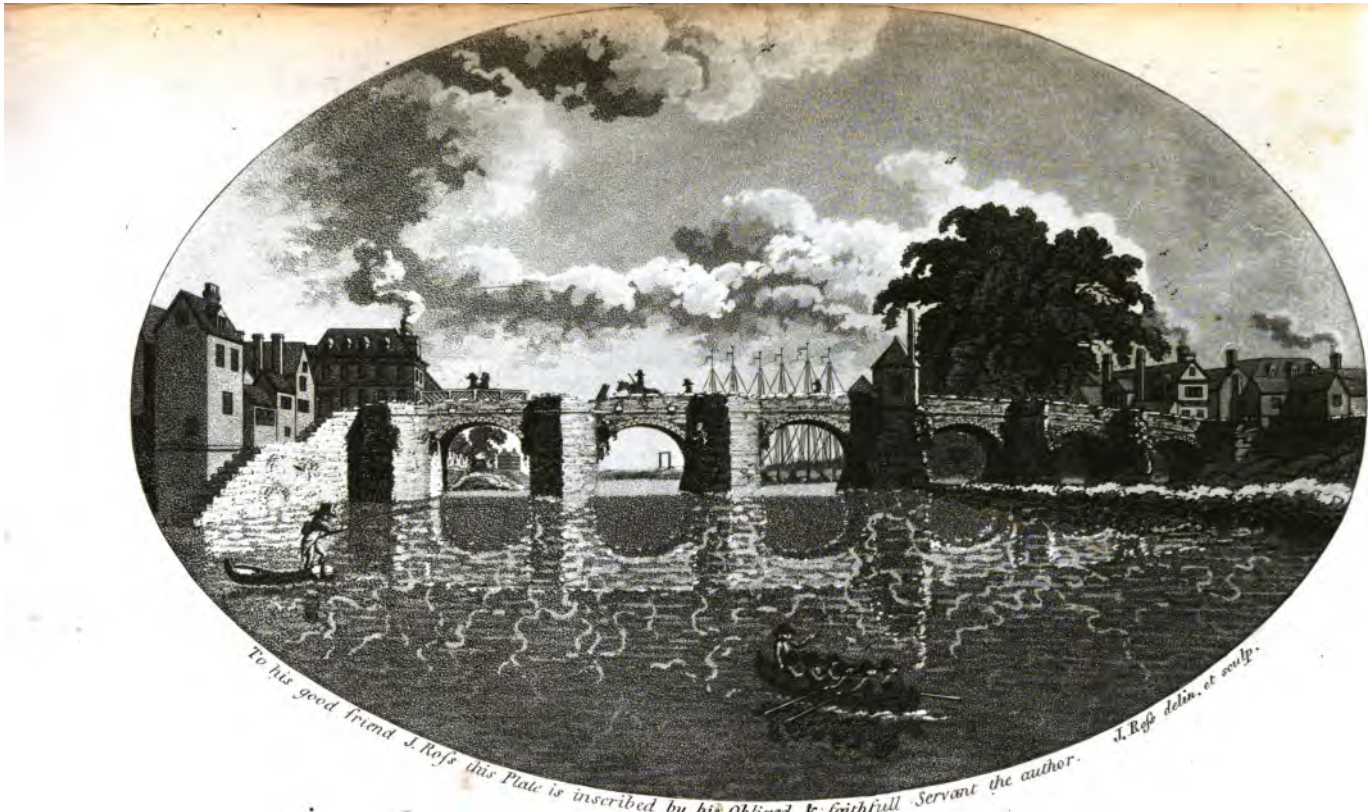
Chipping Norton is an open, airy, well-built town, with several decent inns, and a good market, and was formerly a borough that sent members to parliament. The church is a handsome structure at the edge of the town, and near the same spot are the traces of an old fortification. At Old Norton, in this neighbourhood, William Fitzallen, in the reign of Henry II. founded a priory or hospital for Augustine Friars. Seats of the Hastings's, Lee's, and the Scott's, are at a distance from the first part of the road, and on an eminence that otherways looks to it is the Jones's. Othersthis way are the Adams's and Longin's. The Jones's (Castleton) is a grand old mansion, near which are the remains of an ancient camp. A line of hills connect with these premises and those of the Hastings's before named, which afford a gratifying view. The country near it hath the choicest variety of forms; the seats of grandeur and fashion there seen have the happiest situations, and it is in every direction abundantly cultivated. A small monument, called the Four Shire Stone, marks the boundaries of the counties of Oxford, Gloucester, Warwick, and Worcester. Other monumental stones are supposed to have been placed here by the Danes and Saxons, previous to a battle about the year 914, when the Saxons, under the command of Edward the Elder, defeated the former with great slaughter. Wheelbarrow Castle, to the right of this place, is the ancient seat of the Bluet's; it is a most remarkable antiquity, and generally supposed to have been longer used as a dwelling than any in the kingdom. Morton in the Marsh, and Bourton, small villages that are hereafter passed, have the repute of being once considerable towns. The ancient foss way ran through the first; the vestiges of a camp are near the latter. A house of refreshment is on the summit of Broadway Hill that is next passed, from which, by a short rest, the traveller may obtain one of the most enlarged and rich views; it comprehends nearly the whole of the rich vale of Evesham, the borders of the Avon, of the Severn, and an indescribable distance of other counties. Upon the breast of this hill is a handsome seat of the Cotterill's. Other seats that have been hereto passed, are the Adams's, Lord Northwick's, Sir John Dashwood's, the Freeman's, and Lord Coventry's. A stone bridge unites Bengworth with the ancient borough of Evesham. The first is principally occupied by inns for travellers; in the latter are very large markets, many wealthy dwellers, and handsome shops of trade. It was once dignified with a mitred parliamentary abbey, built about the year 701, by Egwin III. bishop of Worcester. The scite of this was granted at the dissolution to Philip Hobley, when its annual revenues, according to Speed, amounted to 1268*l.* We have no certain tradition of the ancient Abbey Church cloisters or chapter. Besides that at Bengeworth, here are two churches, and what is called the Abbot's Tower, a beautiful structure, seemingly erected for the purpose of a clock and bell tower. Where the "soft flowing Avon," and the "hallowed turf" of its meadows do not edge the town, it is every way encircled with gardens, from the abundant product of which most of the towns within a circumference of twenty miles are served with fruit, and early vegetables. In 1265, a bloody battle was fought here between Prince Edward and the Barons. Pershore is also situated aside the Avon, it was sometime since reckoned to contain 300 houses, but it hath latterly

(like most towns of this county) much increased in opulence and fashion. Elmly castle, on the left of the way hither, is the seat of the Charlot's. Here was formerly a college or chantry for priests. Between this road and one I have to describe (passing from the north side the Avon, from Bengeworth and Evesham to Worcester) is Fladbury, at which was an ancient religious society that was subordinate to the church of Worcester. At Strensham, which is on the left of the way from Pershore to Worcester, was the native place of Butler, the author of Hudibras. In the more northern track from Evesham to Worcester is a handsome new seat of the Parrat's. Rous Lench was a seat of the Rose's, and at Spekly is the ancient one of the Berkley's. Fladbury Hill, in this neighbourhood, affords a beautiful prospect of the contiguous country, and there are some vales of the Avon, which appear in the best characters of placid beauty *.

OXFORD TO CHELTENHAM,
GLOUCESTER, MALVERN, AND WALES.

EYNSHAM on this road was a place of early note, it was taken from the Britons on their defeat by Cuthwulf; it had a monastery for benedictine monks. It was called a Royal Villa in the time of Ethelred, when many laws were enacted in it. Two miles from this place is Stanton Harcourt, the ancient seat of the family so named. In one of the towers of this building, Mr. Pope finished his fifth book of Homer, while his friend Gay was at Cockthorp, another seat of this family. In this neighbourhood also those lovers were struck with lightning, upon whose affecting catastrophe Pope wrote the well-known epitaph. Here is also a seat of the Earl of Abingdon. Witney hath been long celebrated for its extensive blanket manufactory, wherein 3000 hands have had employ, in the time of Queen Anne, (laws were enacted for the protection of this trade, but it hath latterly much declined.) It was also a borough in the time of Edward II. and sent members to parliament until the twenty-third of Edward III. Here is a good free school, an alms house, and charity school. A mile from hence, on the left, is Coggs-mill, where was a priory of black monks, (some ruins still remain) and about the same distance, on the other hand, is Minster Lovel, anciently the seat of Lord Lovel. Here was another ancient religious house, and the ruins of the conventual church, offices, and gate, are still seen near the parish church. In another direction from this place toward Charlebury, is a seat of the Marquis of Blandford. Another in the way to Burford, is the Fettyplace's, and near that town is the Lenthall's, a descendant of the speaker of that name, where are some good paintings that were bought from the collection of Charles I. The church here is a handsome building, and there are remains of a small priory, or hospital, that was dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Burford, like Witney, is situated on the Windrush, and it hath also some share of its woollen trade. The buildings are in general indifferently formed, but there are some tradesmen of wealth, and some good inns. A council is stated to have been held here about the year 682, by the Kings Eltheldred and Berthwald, at which an abbot of Malmsbury was commanded to direct the due observance of Easter. At Battle Edge, near this place, in 752, Cuthred, king of the West Saxons, defeated Ethelbald. Akerman's Street also passed by it; and by another way from it, at a place called Bruern, was an abbey of Cistercian monks. The most of the country through this and the ensuing stage is remarkably fruitful in every sort of grain, and produces besides a numerous race of the finest breed of sheep. Notwithstanding this face of health, it hath often an inanimate appearance, faintly coloured, of hard features, and a harsh outline, in many large spaces it is wholly destitute of wood,

* For Worcester, see South Wales, and the Marches, p. 100—102, or Green's Worcester.



Worcester Old Bridge.

HEREFORDSHIRE BEACON _ *Malvern Hills*.

or the smaller foliage. Earth and stone walls are the common fences. Barrington Park, Lord Dinevor's, Lord Sherborne's, Lord Chedworth's, the Waller's and Brown's, are agreeable exceptions to this description. Some of these are improved with lofty and gay plantations; at others all the softer elegance of minute taste, and prosperous industry delight their visitors. Where this road passes Frogmill Inn, the general landscape of the country hastily improves; at some summits near Dowdswell, the eye becomes instantly fascinated by some of the most striking and extensive pictures of nature, which this island any where affords. It includes the whole of that course of the river Severn which is in the county of Gloucester, and its entrance into the county of Worcester; discovering much of Monmouthshire, Herefordshire, and Shropshire. Southward of these is Kingroad, and the Bristol Channel, forming sometimes the appearance of a broad lake encircled with vast hills, but these parts of the landscape are subject at times to be so thickly veiled in the "etherial mantles of the sky," that we are at a loss to conclude which object is the water, which the land, and which the cloud! Turning northward from hence, agreeable to the inland course of the Severn, its vale appears narrowed by the hills of Gloucestershire encroaching suddenly upon it. These are some heights of Dean Forest, that arise over the town of Newnham on one side, and some that bound the town of Dursley, and village of Cambridge. The city of Gloucester appears from hence to be stationed upon a more commodious part of the vale. Looking immediately over it the eye will be carried to some sublime heights, and distant mountains, that are far and wide stretching into the atmosphere above; these are the Skerid Vaur and Sugar Loaf, near Abergaveny in Monmouthshire; the long line of the Black Mountain, partly attaching to the last named county, and the Vau Mountain, or Breconshire Beacon. Beneath these subjects there is a line of less considerable heights running from Newnham, toward the north. These are Ruerdean Hill, the Wilderness, the Owl Hill, and Penyard Hill, all of which are within the centre, or in the vicinity of Dean Forest. Shift the eye from this round of prospects unto another northward of it, and the celebrated hills of Malvern are seen edging the more remote valley of the Severn, near Upton and Worcester. Some other less eminent spots that lie near the lower part of Malvern Hills, are those of Redmarlow and Marcle; those near its head or northern end, are Alberly Hills, and the Clay Hills of Shropshire. It may be interesting to travellers of particular curiosity, as well as to such as make rides from Cheltenham to this place, that I notice a way from the village of Dowdswell to what is called Presbury Hill, and Wimbly Barrow, from which the prospect is otherwise enlarged; for it admits the great line of heights noticed near Birmingham in Warwickshire, with a view of the town of Warwick one way, and the great steeps of Breedon and Cotswould, which range the river Avon, at another.

In the neighbourhood of Dowdswell are seats of the Tracey's, the Rogers's, Baker's, and King's. Near the road passing hence to Cheltenham, are the Hunt's of Charleton-Kings; and at Lackington, the Troy's, (late the ancient family of the Norwood's). That so pleasantly and conspicuously situated above the village of Presbury, is the Ayle's; and at the village last named, are the Capel's and Bagot's; near it is the Delabere's.

Approaching the centre of the vale wherein Cheltenham, Gloucester, and Tewksbury have triangular stations, it seems many ways stretching from the eye into incredible breadths, and is found not only to comprehend the vast vale of Severn, which is by some called the Gloucester vale; but also much of that rich valley which attaches to, and is named after the river Avon. The broad verdurous descents from the hills of Cotswould, Clive, Presbury, and Letchampton, are those nearest to the eye on the side of the Severn; those that are opposite are Malvern Hills, Redmarle, and May Hill. A small river, called the Chelt, journies with the road for some way before we enter the town, and partly forms the name Cheltenham. This place owes most of its consequence and population from the repute and real virtue of its mineral spring, which was discovered previous to the year 1718, by a Mr. Mason, its first proprietor. The paved court about the public rooms, shaded walks, and other the first conveniences for its visitors, were planned and executed under the direction of Captain Skellicorn, Norborne, Berkley, and others. Its latter additions have arisen from the industrious speculations of the inhabitants; of these may be reckoned the theatre, ball and assembly rooms, hot and cold

baths, libraries, genteel boarding houses, inns, &c. &c. Fauconburgh House is a late erection, by a lord of that name, and hath been used for the residence of his present majesty, and his august family. Adjoining to this is the Royal Spa, which was first opened for the better supplying these illustrious visitors with the produce of its salutary springs. The situation of these is where the land slowly rises from the borders of the small river above-named into a pleasant brow, from which there is an agreeable prospect to Cheltenham, the level country and wide heights that surrouud it. Many foot-paths also cross the inclosures here, and by communicating with the more public walks at the wells, they are much frequented by the fashionables. The church is a neat building, in form of a cross, with a handsome octagonal spire. It had once a chantry dedicated to the Virgin Mary; in the church-yard is another of the shady walks peculiar to this place. It is a disagreeable observation, that under the present prevailing fashion of self-interest, (in the exercise of which such multitudes are daily suffering) some of the most gratifying retreats about Cheltenham have been in a manner wrested from the public at this place. Except upon the immediate borders of the brook Chelt, and where the wells and walks above described are situated, the whole vicinity of the town is filled with corn fields and enclosures of other richly variegated produce. Footpaths, formerly crossed these in all directions to the rural villages that surrounded it. Thus in shades of the green fences, or amidst the ripening crops, were the former most favourite walks; but under the pretence of improving these lands, (before fully cultivated) an Act of Parliament hath been lately obtained for their enclosure, and thus the numberless visitors are not only excluded from them, but the weary villagers must toil through dirty lanes! —a journey that is sometimes double the length of his former homeward ways.

Before I pass from Cheltenham, it is proper I notice that the more direct way from London to Gloucester was left by me near Frogmill, from whence it continues through the several villages of Birdlip, Whitcomb, Brockworth, Hucclecot, Barnwood, and Wotton, to that city. The views near Birdlip Hill are of the same subjects, and in nearly the same characters I shewed them in my way to Cheltenham. The principal seats so passed are those of the Hicks's, Colchester's, Price's, Morris's, &c. Near the road, which passes from this I am upon to Gloucester, is Chosen Hill, with its neat little church, (a conic hill, arising in a lonely manner from the broad area of the vale.) Robin Hood's Hill, near Gloucester, hath a similar appearance, and both afford the most interesting prospects from their several sides and summits.

Near Tewkesbury, are seats of the Pick's and the Wall's; and at Deerhurst was a monastery founded by Dodo, Duke of Mercia. It was destroyed by the Danes, but rebuilt in the year 980*.

At Walton, a short walk from Tewkesbury, is a medicinal spring of equal quality to that of Cheltenham. This town, according to tradition, had a religious establishment so early as the seventh century. In 715, Odo and Dodo, Dukes of Mercia, built a monastery; this was afterwards greatly enlarged, particularly by William the Conqueror. About the year 1102, it is described to be a most stately and magnificent abbey, and the superior house of the monks of Cranbourn. Some of its porticos yet remain. The church, founded by Robert Fitzhammon in the latter end of the eleventh century, is built in the form of a cross, the tower supported by arches standing on the intersection. It is in length 300 feet, in breadth 120. The eastern and principal entrance is by a Gothic door way of extreme magnificence. Its other external ornaments are costly and great. It hath seven windows of painted glass, charged with coats of arms, portraits, effigies, &c. The roof is vaulted with stone, and covered with lead. Among the interesting collection of sepulchral monuments, are those of Robert Fitzhammon, the founder, dated 1107,—of the countess of Warwick, 1439—George Duke of Clarence, brother of Edward IV. 1477, and of his wife Isabella Nevil—of the Duke of Somerset—of Lord Wenlock—of Edward, Prince of Wales—of Sir John Beaufort—of the Earl of Devon, &c. In this town was also a house of lepers. It sent members to parliament in the reign of Elizabeth.

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* See Dyde's History of Tewkesbury.

The town being situated where the river Avon makes its junction with the Severn, it hath constantly maintained a considerable trade, especially for malt and flour: more latterly it hath been a manufactory for frame-work stocking-knitting, and for gloves. The town is otherwise notable for the decisive battle fought here between the houses of York and Lancaster, in which the hopes of the latter were totally destroyed, and the crown secured to Edward IV. Queen Margaret was sent prisoner to the tower of London, and her son Prince Edward basely murdered. The Duke of Somerset and others of rank were taken from the abbey, where they had fled for sanctuary, tried and executed. Others were pardoned. In 1643, it was the quarters of the parliamentary troops, under the Earl of Essex; at the siege of Gloucester it was fortified for the king, and in 1644, it was again taken for the parliament, by Col. Massey *. A vast range of hills, facing the river Avon, appear pointing toward the town, from the north east, which is called Breedon Hill, named after a village situated three miles from Tewkesbury, where was once a monastery, founded by one Eanulfe, kinsman of Ethelbald, king of Mercia. Near Longdon are the traces of Morton Castle, now converted into the seat of the Foliot's. Another seat this way is the Bridge's. Upton is a small neat town, with some good inns and shops of trade, at which a commodious bridge crosses the Severn. The hills of Malvern are a grand object throughout most of the last stage; and on a towering broad breast, which is distinctly viewed from this town, rests the handsome priory, church, and village of Malvern, a place not less renowned for the medicinal qualities of its water, than for its salubrious air, its engaging and enchanting prospects †.

As well as the way I described from Gloucester to the river Wye, a tour is often made from Malvern to that river, by the way of Ledbury to Ross one way, and from Ledbury to Monmouth another. Others again pass by the Ledbury road to Hereford, and thence to the celebrated scenes that border the river Usk, near Abergavenny, &c. Another interesting tour from hence to the city of Worcester, and thence by Whitly Court, Sir Walter Blount's, Cleobury, Ludlow, and return by Leominster, Bromyard, &c. &c. ‡

* See Dyde's History of Tewkesbury.

† ——————— not vainly spread
Oh Malvern! is thy fame. Thy church may claim
Pre-eminence for style and storied lights,
Sanctiloquent and rare! thy lucid baths,
Not yielding in salubrious qualities
To Trent, Pyrmont, or Spa, shall bless the land,
As erst with health and purity! The scite
Of thy delightful village, which e'er teems
With bland refreshments, for an inland view
May challenge Ida, or that ken renown'd
O'er fair Campania's plains!

Vide Baker's Picturesque Guide.

‡ For accounts of these and other descriptions of Malvern, &c. &c. see Picturesque Guide through South Wales, and the Marches; or Malvern Guide, as selected from that work, with plates, &c.

FROM THE BATH AND BRISTOL ROAD, TO HENLEY, OXFORD, &c.

PASSING Maidenhead Thicket, the only building of note is Hall Place, Sir William East's, the landscape is otherwise principally formed of distant woodlands, and thick shaded thoroughfare roads. At Hurley Hill, other wide levels that border the river Thames again open to the view, beautified with vast bounds of picturesque heights, and rich improvements of art; the principal seats of fashion so situated are, the Vansittart's, Williams's, Kempenfelt's, Sir William Clayton's, and the Scott's, at Hurley House. The Scott's here named are of great antiquity *.

At Harleford, Sir William Clayton hath a pleasant situation, where some woodlands and lawns ascend in handsome forms from the farther borders of the river Thames. The Scott's occupy some conspicuous summits above it.

The richly embellished premises of Park Place, Lord Malmsbury, late General Conway, has a handsome lodge, a mile before coming to Henley. Other fashionable premises that heighten the native beauties of the country are, Fawley Court and Henley Park, the Freeman's, and the Grote's. Others in the neighbourhood are Lady Stapleton's, the hon. Mr. West's, Powis's, and Stoneyer's. A most gratifying view may be obtained by a pleasant walk half a mile northward from the town to what is called Henley Park, or to Windmill Hill, which is about the same distance westward. The first shews the river, the town of Henley, and other beauties of the valley, in a bird's eye view; the latter, a complete prospect of Park Place, the various woodlands, summits of the hills that a great way border the river Thames above and below Henley, and much of the country about Waldgrave and Twyford, which is described in the Bath road.

Before I quit the borders of the above river, it is proper to notice, that, by a round of two or three miles, the remarkable beauties of Clifden and Taplow Hills, the outlines of which were remarked in my Guide to Bath, may be more minutely examined, and an opportunity given to explore several other engaging scenes, that would be else passed over unseen, or partially viewed.

This is done by taking a by-way from Maidenhead to the village of Cookham, from thence through the town of Marlow, again to join the post road near Henley. The beauteous woods, shaded rides, and agreeable prospects that give celebrity to the improvements of the Clayton's, and the Scott's before noticed, are passed thus:—Nettlebed and Benson, which are the first villages passed in the way from Henley to Oxford, are only notable for their convenient inns, for refreshment, the change of horses, &c. Passing from the latter toward Oxford, a wide margin of pleasant meadow lands, and a graceful ridge of fertile heights, for a great way appear in compact with the course of the Thames to the left.

Dorchester was an ancient Roman station, was a bishop's see, and had many churches, although nothing now remains to speak the distinction. The church is a plain massive structure, and the village is principally occupied with small innkeepers. Passing from Dorchester, a woody eminence appears to meet the traveller in his direct way toward Oxford; part of these appertain to the park and rides of the seat of Lord Harcourt, and some attach to that of the Willoughby's, which are on the left and right of the way.

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* For other particulars of these subjects, see future Descriptions of the beauties of the River Thames, from its source to the metropolis.

FROM THE OXFORD ROAD TO ABINGDON,

FARRINGDON, LECHLADE, FAIRFORD, CIRENCESTER, &c. &c.

THIS road divides from that I have just described between Maidenhead and Oxford, near the village of Dorchester. Where this road begins, are seats of the Bushe's and Phillips's; at a distance from it, during the passage to Abingdon, is seen Sir George Bowyer's, Lord Harcourt's, and the Lenthall's.

Abingdon is situated near the influx of the Ock and the Thames; it was antiently called Seovesham, was famous for its splendid abbey, founded by a king of the West Saxons, who was buried here. It had great endowments from king Arthur, also several Norman abbots, and had scarce its equal in the island for wealth and extent. Much of this structure, and many remains of its collateral buildings, are to be seen about the place. The church hath some handsome specimens of architecture, and near the same spot is an hospital, first founded by one of the abbots of the monastery above named, for poor men.

Here was formerly a convent of black nuns, founded in the year 680. The town hall is a stately building, and is near the centre of the town, where is also a commodious square for their markets, which are commonly very large. In the centre of this square was an elegant cross, built by the brotherhood in the reign of Henry VI. and demolished in the civil wars. There is a great trade from hence in the carriage of corn, &c. by water for London, and some manufactories for sail cloth and sacking. It is governed by a mayor, &c. The knights of the shire are chosen here; and it sends one member to Parliament. Serpent Hill and Barrow are ancient camps near this place, at the first a battle is said to have been fought between the Saxons and the Danes. Passing a short way from Abingdon is Oakley House, the Tomkins, and Twopenny Lodge, the Laurence's.

The Berkshire hills rise in a lofty line, and for twenty miles of the ensuing journey terminate the views toward the west; they are also the boundary of what is called the Vale of the White Horse, whilst this road for the same distance may be said to edge it towards the north. The representation of the horse, from which this district hath its name, is often plainly viewed from the road, is carved through the turf upon one of these most prominent hills. It is computed to cover an acre of ground; is in a galloping posture, and being upon a white chalky soil, it is visible to a vast distance of the farthest country. A custom hath sometimes been held for the villagers in the neighbourhood to hold a festival at the spot on a certain day in the year, when the horse was cleaned or scoured, and at the same opportunity they were amused with simple exercises of friendship, rustic gambols, and harmless combats. It is supposed to have been first made as a memorial of Alfred's victory over the Danes. At Ashdown, near this spot, is a seat of Lord Craven; and the burial place of the Danish chief, who was slain in this fight in 871, is also near it. Other antique monuments and many remains of camps or castles, mark these eminences. The seats seen in the latter part of this journey are the Blandy's, the Pusey's, and Sir John Throckmorton's; at a distance on the left and right, the Pye's and Southby's; and nearly adjoining to Farringdon, on the right, is the manor house of the Hallet's.

At Farringdon was anciently a castle, built by Roger Earl of Gloucester, which was taken and destroyed by king Stephen, in 1202. King John founded here an Abbey of monks. The town has latterly been much improved from its malt trade and increasing markets. It is situated partly on the slope of a small hill, and partly in a valley. In the way from Farringdon to Lechlade are the Lovedon's, Baker's, and Woods. Where the smooth borders of the Isis are approached, near to Lechlade, the uses of the lands appear wholly altered, being occupied as dairy farms. And besides the agreeable windings of the Isis in the general landscape of this place, several portions of the Stroudwater canal stretch through it in a line with the road.

Lechlade is situated near unto the spot where the small river Leche hath an union with that above named. Here was a priory founded in the reign of Henry III. and there is said to have been once a Latin university.

Seats near the town of Fairford are those of the Barker's and Morgan's. This town is situated near the source of the river Coln, and near the foot of the great Cotswold hills, and bears many marks of its former consequence. The church here, 125 feet in length and 55 in breadth, is particularly worthy of attention. Its rich stained glass windows were found in a prize ship, bound for Rome, by Mr. Tame, a merchant of London, who built this church. The subjects of the paintings are mostly scriptural, and designed by the famous Albert Durer, and are so well performed that Vandyke is said to have affirmed, the pencil could not exceed it. Near the church is a well endowed free school. Here is a weekly market, and two fairs.

Cirencester is situated upon a level plain that borders the river Churn. It was a town of the Britons, and was called Caer Cori, and was the Durocornovium of Antoninus, and is situated on the Roman road to Gloucester, at the intersection of the Fosse.—Some parts of its ancient walls may be yet traced, and numberless relicts of its antiquity have from time to time been discovered.

Historians say Ceaulin took this city from the Britons, when he routed their forces at Dearham, and reduced Gloucester, and that Ponda, the Mercian, was routed by Linegils, the West Saxon, while he was beseiging this place with a great army. It was afterwards the Mercians, and remained theirs, with the whole country, till the establishment of the English monarchy. It had a castle, which was destroyed by king Stephen, and another was destroyed by Henry III. It suffered much in the Barons wars, and in the civil wars of the seventeenth century. There were three parish churches, dedicated to St. Cecilia, St. Laurence, and St. John. That which remains as the parish church, is a spacious and highly ornamented edifice. According to Leland, there was also a fair, and rich college of prebendaries, which was by Henry I. converted into a monastery for black canons. Here was also an hospital founded by Henry I. It hath large markets and fairs; several merchants in corn, cheese, and other articles, and sends two members to Parliament. Besides the noble mansion of Lord Bathurst, which nearly adjoins the town, there are many other residents of fortune and fashion.

Here it may be proper just to observe, that a way may be made directly upon the Roman way just noticed to join the one I have before described to Gloucester, also through a champaign cultivated tract of country of ten miles; another reaches to Tetbury; numbers of woolstaplers are settled at this town, and much yarn is manufactured here for the use of the great clothing manufactory, for which this country is noted. It had anciently a castle, said to have been built by a British king, and some Roman remains have been sometimes found at this place. The church is a handsome modern structure, finished about the year 1781; and from the circumstance of the rivers Avon the Isis getting their course from hence to such distant seas. Its station may be pronounced remarkably elevated. Direct ways are made from this town, by way of Didmarton, Dunkirk, Petty France Inn, &c. to join that I have before described, leading into Bristol; the noble seat of Badminton, the Duke of Beaufort, is in this direction.

Gloucester is a city of very considerable trade, wealth, and improving elegance; its principal buildings are in four streets, which run from its centre to face the four cardinal points from which they are named, as were four ancient gates that were fortified entrances to the old town. It is a sea port, hath a very elegant cathedral, many other public buildings of magnificence, and many charitable establishments. There is a fashionable tour to pass the river Severn from hence, and by way of the villages of Higham, Churcham, Huntly, Longhope, and Weston, to Ross, where pleasure boats are provided, by which genteel passengers are enabled to traverse through the celebrated beauties of the river Wye, and return thus to the scenery I have described, near Kingroad, Bristol, Bath, &c. &c. *

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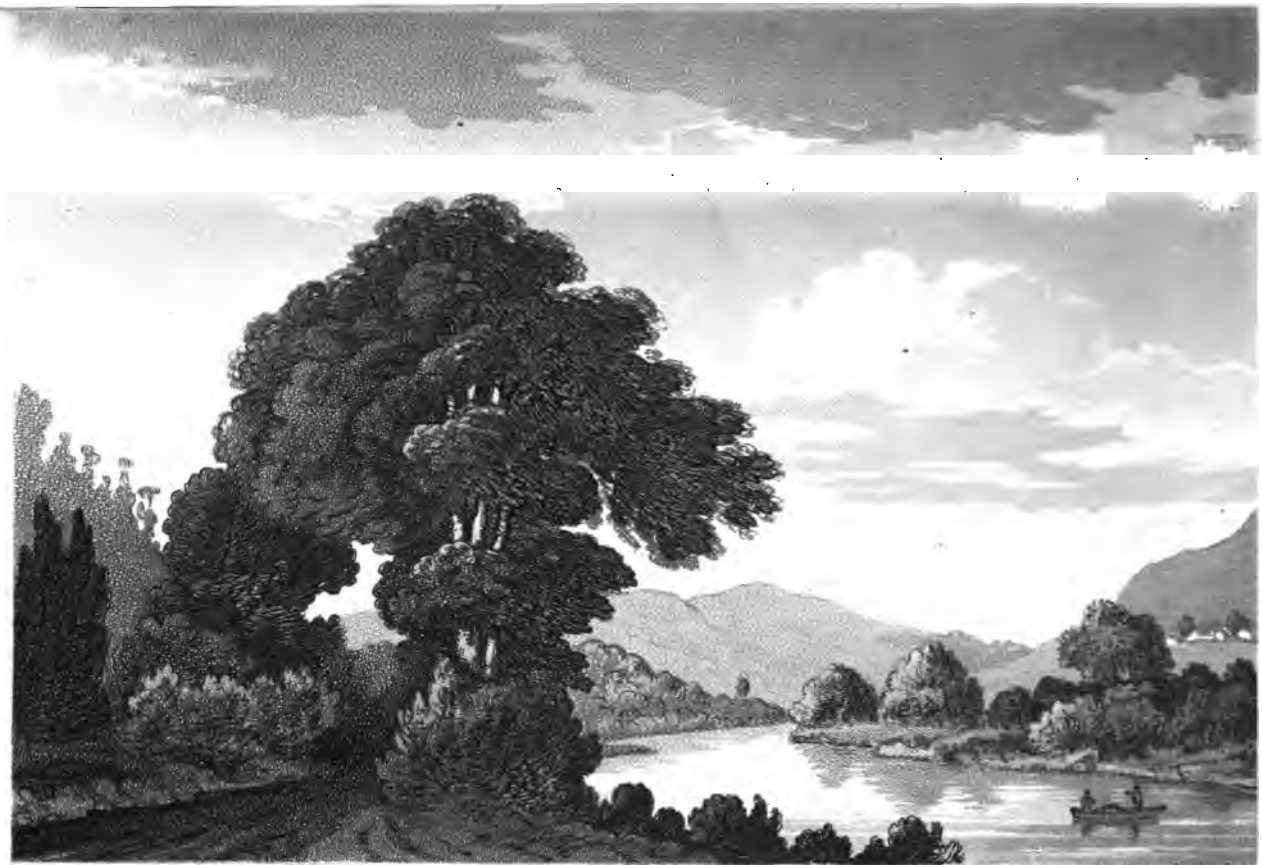
* For other descriptions of this tour and the city of Gloucester, see Picturesque Guides vol. ii. p. 1—14.

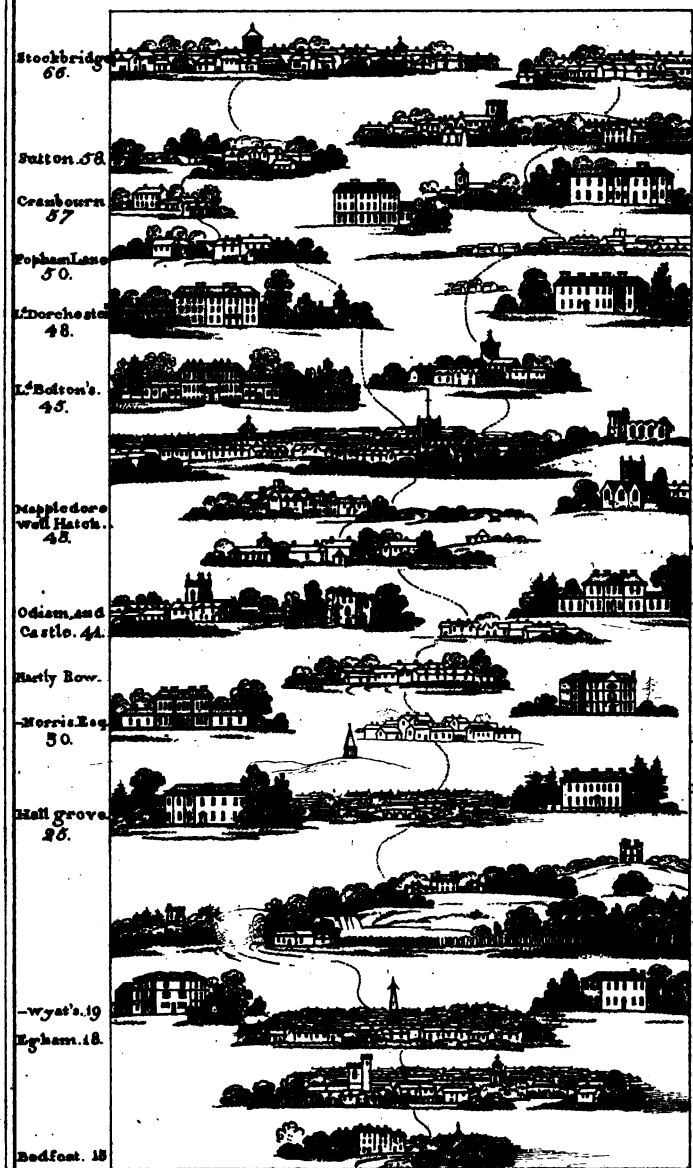


T. Jones delt. To his good friend T. Jones Esqr. this Plate is inscribed by his obligd. & faithfull Servant the Author. J. Black feed.

River Wye near Builth.

WHITTON PARK.

To J.ⁿ Agnew Esq.ʳ this Plate, is inscribed by his obliged Serv.ᵗ J. Baker.



Published, July 10. 1801. by J. Baker

CONTINUATION OF THE

WESTERN ROAD FROM HOUNSLOW, STAINES, &c.

TO THE LAND'S END, CORNWALL, &c. &c.

UPON a spot of Hounslow Heath, about a stone's throw from the road, on leaving that village, a small wood monument is shockingly marked with a bloody hand and knife, and the following inscription: "Buried with a stake through his body here, the wicked murderer, John Pretor, who cut the throat of his wife and child, and poisoned himself, July 6, 1765." Looking to the edge of this waste, at a farther journey upon it the richly embellished seats of the Agnals and Gostlings partially appear attaching to the village of Whitton. Others in this neighbourhood are the Prime's and Lady Petre's*.

At Belfont are the Ingleheart's and Henderson's; at a distance, right of these, Sir William Gibbons's and the Wood's. Great ingenuity hath been practised upon some yew trees in the church yard here; they are fancifully cut into letters, and the date 1704. On the left of the road, between Belfont and Staines are the Foxhall's, Bristow's, Ray's, Shaw's, Layton's, Barber's, &c. Egham and Staines are both small towns, situated near to each other, and near the border of the river Thames. At both are some principal inns, and such tradespeople, &c. as are necessary to a populous and genteel neighbourhood. Where a road passes from the first to Windsor, is Runney Mead, on which are annual races; and near this spot King John gave his signature to Magna Charta. The highlands that appear from hence suddenly rising from the vale that borders the river Thames, are those of St. Ann's Hill, Pruin Hill, Cooper's Hill, and Priest Hill; the summits and slopes of these are much occupied with the residences and improvements of some fashionable or wealthy possessor. On St. Ann's Hill are the tasteful premises of the Hon. C. J. Fox. Others left of Egham are the Wyat's, Erving's, Bartholomew's, Burton's, Brown's, Sir E. Blackett's, Bennet's, and Scott's. On the right are the Smith's, Toring's, Jebb's, Lord Bulkeley, Pococks, Blaithwayt's, Freemantle's, and Lord Henley's. Each of the eminences just named have such celebrity for their rich and extensive prospects as continually draws strangers to view them, and none view them without admiration. When risen to the highest part of the road which ascends from the last named town, most of the heights just named, and other lines of the Surry Hills that were previously noticed, seem to unite with other circling distances that are westward, and within these the royal domain of Windsor Forest arrests an eager and minute attention to its peculiar beauties; some, most contiguous to the road, are shewn in the annexed plan; other beauties are in the deep shades of firs, and mixed varieties of other woods, large sweeps of pasturage, and intervening sheets of water; added to these, is an interesting assemblage of agricultural improvements, carried on under the laudable and patriotic exertions of the Sovereign †. These bright scenes, and many of the succeeding stages receive increased lustre from being set "like diamonds in an Ethiop's ear," upon the edge of a vast wild of black heath land. The surface of the waste so approached is broken into a variety of forms. Many commodious new roads are made to cross it in different directions, from some of which there are fresh views of many new countries. Of the dwellings of distinction that are seen through this direction of the road are the Round's, at Shrub's Hill; at Sunning, those of the Street's, Barber's, and

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* Enlarged descriptions of these, and the various ways which intersect the borders of the river Thames, will appear in the Appendix to the *Imperial Guide*, as published, with a numerous display of landscape views of the seats so situated, which are communicated to the author as a present to the work.

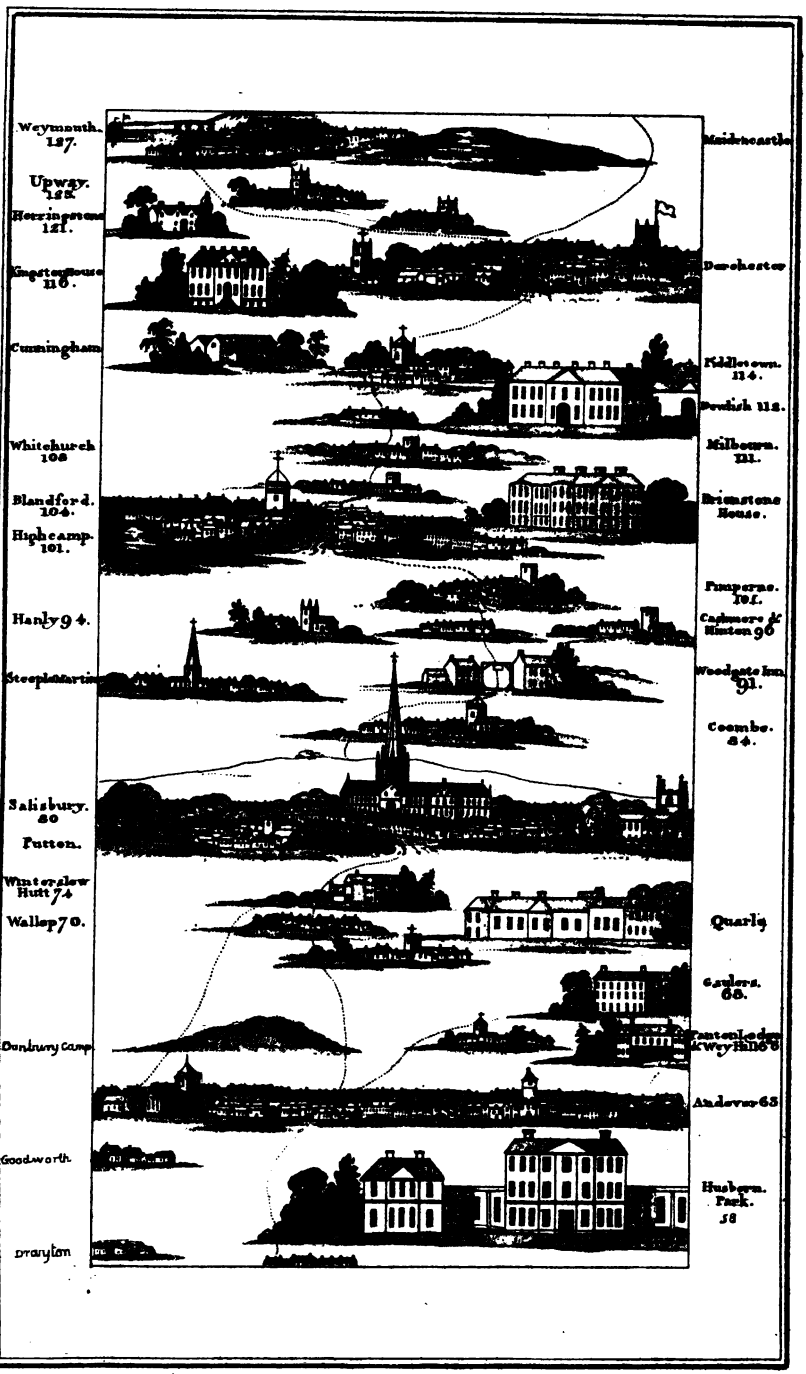
† The lodge, observatory, and some other ornamental buildings, were erected by the late Duke of Cumberland.

Stewart's; near the twenty-fifth mile stone the Burks' and the Meers's are seen on the left; at a distance on the right are some woodlands, which attach to Swindley Lodge, Earl Sandwich's. The Leicester's is a neat house on the left; and on the right of this is Bagshot Park, the seat of Prince William of Gloucester, both of which are near the entrance of that town. Great agricultural improvements have lately made their appearance in the low lands and borders of the waste hereafter passed, and it excites our regret that such vast spaces of this description of country have been suffered to lie neglected and unproductive. A handsome seat of the Harris's appear in the passage from Bagshot to Hartford Bridge. At Hartly Row is the next Inn. The seats this way are the Beauclerk's and Mildmay's. The town of Odiham is distant about 3 miles, in the same direction. At this place was once a royal palace and castle, famous for the imprisonment of David, king of Scotland. Such were the fortifications of this place, that thirteen English soldiers defended themselves a whole fortnight against the Dauphin of France, who had besieged it with his army.

Between Hartford Bridge and Basingstoke are the seats of the Sloper's, Hawley's, and the late Sir James Tilney Long's to the right; left is the noble mansion of Hackwood, late the Duke of Bolton's, now Lord Bolton's. Arnwell, near this passage, was an ancient priory; near Hartly Row was another, and at Old Basing, a village near the road opposite to Hackwood, was the noted seat of the last named family. In the church here are their monuments, particularly an Earl Paulet, who lived to see 103 persons descended from him; a Marquis of Winchester, who made his house here (which was then described the largest of any subject's) a garrison for Charles I. in which he endured a two years siege, but being taken by treachery, was burnt to the ground. The site still shews its vast extent, and some remaining walls and out buildings partly discover the fashion of the building.

Basingstoke is situated near the first streams of the River Lodon, in a rich corn country; it hath many factors in that article, maltsters, mealmen, with other considerable tradesmen, innkeepers, &c. The church hath several antiquities worthy of notice. At this place was anciently an hospital, founded so early as Henry III. Part of it lately remained, until it gave place to the more modern buildings, now in ruins, on the spot. There is a choice of two roads, about equal distance between Basingstoke and Sarum; that to the right hand passes through Worthing, Andover, &c. and is the most sheltered; that by the left passes through Stockbridge, and being most ways exposed to the vast Wiltshire downs, is only preferred in summer. At Worthing, in the first named way, are seats of the Clark's, Tenbury's, and Cook's; near the 40 mile stone from London, the Wither's is on the right hand; near the 50 mile stone, half a mile on the right, Sir Alexander Grant's; left of the road, at 51 miles, the Branstone's; others are the Holder's and Lafrow's. In the last named way a strong clear stream of water is seen running for some miles in a rich line of country, and on a parallel with the road. The villages of Whitchurch, Laverstock, and Husbourn, are in the same track, also pleasant seats of the Portal's, and a modern mansion of the Earl of Portsmouth. Where the way begins descending to the low station of Andover, there is a spacious view over part of Salisbury Plain, and much of the adjacent country lying contiguous to it. Andover is a considerable market town, with several well managed inns, and it is otherwise much benefited by a navigable canal being made to pass from it to the Southampton river. The church is a large, plain, ancient fabric; and there are many other venerable marks of the antiquity of this town in the old dwellings. Several antient camps are near it, and at Weyhill, the Port-way and Ickneild-street Roman roads, cross each other.

At leaving Andover, are the seats of the Thompson's and the Gaulter's. Farther on the same hand is Quarly House, the Cox's; the same way is seen an antiquated mansion of the Marquis of Winchester, and a neat seat of Sir J. Champney's. Rich prospects of verdant banks and spacious downs at some parts of this stage are stretching to the utmost reach of the eye. The villages of this country are always agreeably situated within the most fruitful bourns that intersect such eminences. It is found particularly calculated for the sport of hunting, and hath therefore many families of fortune established in it. Quarley Hill is seen to the right, a few miles before coming to the village of Wallop, and that of Danbury opposite, on the other hand, are marked with vast entrenchments. The first is a British work; Danbury was a Roman, and answered to it,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The river Wallop passed over at the village so named, is celebrated for its trout. This stream also gives its name to two other villages, which belonged at the conquest to the ancient family of that name. One of them, Sir John Wallop, in 1513, fitted out several ships, and, with eight hundred men, burnt twenty-one villages in Normandy, in revenge for the French burning Brighthelmstone.

Those subjects are in the purlieus of the vast Salisbury Plain, a country which was formerly described to have been wider than the eye could see, thinly inhabited, and much infested with robbers. They are described to have extended from the east, into the heart of Wiltshire, and thence into that of Dorset, and to the sea. Near Winterslow church, which appears on a ridge of high lands that lie to the left of Winterslow Hutt, (a public house) are some handsome plantations of evergreens, which serve to mark where Winterslow House, Lord Holland's, was standing some years since. Putton village is in a bourne, lying to the west. From Finsbury Ring, an entrenchment hereafter passed, and about four miles from Sarum, there is an extensive view of the country around, including Old Sarum Castle, and a great way through the rich valley, which guides the waters of the river Avon by the village of Winterbourn to Sarum. On the more southern track, which I have described to pass from Basingstoke, is Lord Dorchester's. Passing this place, an ornamented gateway directs us from the turnpike to a handsome house of the Terry's; at Popham Lane, so passed, there is a decent inn for refreshment or change of horses. A little way farther is one of the most extensive inland prospects. The objects seen from it are towering masses of highlands that run through Wiltshire, through much of the New Forest of Hampshire, and nearly to the sea coast, next Southampton, they are the largest body of the uplands of this country. The slopes from these are partly inclosed and partly woodlands. Through these the chalky road for many miles imitates the singular appearance of slips of white tape laid upon them. The villages of Cranbourn and Sutton are situated within a sheltered bourn here passed; the last hath decent inns. At the small borough town of Stockbridge, Steel practised so successfully upon the freemen's wives, by his known promise of the golden apple. The bourn here is graced by a most powerful stream of limpid water that passes for several miles southward to the river Kees.

Sarum is situated where there is a space of lowland of considerable dimensions, attaching to the large pleasant river Avon. Camden calls this place the offspring of Wilton, which last place, in the Saxon's times, was evidently of great consequence, and extremely populous. It is, however, more generally denominated the offspring of the ancient SORBIODUNUM, or Old Sarum, which was situated on or near a neighbouring high land, that now bears its name, and at which a few remaining dwellers still retain a privilege to elect a member to parliament. According to Malmesbury, the ancient city resembled a castle, defended with a wall, and well supplied with every thing but water, which was so scarce as to be sold at an extraordinary price. It was about two miles in circumference. Kenric took it from the Danes in 553; it was burnt by these people in 1003; it afterwards recovered, and had a cathedral. William the First summoned here all the orders of his kingdom to swear allegiance to him. In the time of Richard the First, the town began to be abandoned; the inhabitants settling in the valley, near the conflux of the Avon and the Nadder, where the town of Salisbury or Sarum now appears. Bishop Poor laid the foundation of the present church, which was finished, at a prodigious expence, in forty years, and it was dedicated in 1258, in the presence of Henry VIII. Of this celebrated spired cathedral, the number of windows are said to answer to the days in a year, the pillars to the hours, and the doors to the twelve months.

The bishop's palace is a large structure, near the church, and near the same premises, enclosed within a wall, are the residences of the other principals of the see. It hath a most spacious market place, an elegant new county hall, and it hath the advantage of a stream of clear water in almost every street and lane of the city, and which issue from the several rivers Nadder, Willy, and Avon. At Clarendon Park, two miles east from Salisbury, are the remains of two palaces; one built by Henry III. Parliaments were held here, at which the celebrated statutes named after it were enacted; here was likewise a priory, and near it is an ancient camp.

Wilton House, and Longford Castle, the first Earl Pembroke's, the latter Earl Radnor's, are commonly visited by persons on this tour. Wilton House is remarkable for its princely collection of sculpture and painting, and is situated 3 miles on the right; the other, a superb antiquity, on the banks of the river Avon, below the town. Near this are also seats of the Bath's and Hawkins's. A cross road may be taken from hence that will conduct the traveller through a rich bourn, within which are the several villages of Punton, Hunnington, and Comb, again to track the great post road which leads from Sarum to Woodyates Inn. Those deep centered bourns and broad streams that so strongly marked the landscape near Salisbury, do not prevail in all this latter stage; yet the prospects of lofty downs no way lessen, and like those heretofore passed, they are commonly marked with the traces of wars and rural tombs of the ancients. The subjects seen at a distance from these are mostly in Wiltshire, Hampshire, and Dorsetshire, with some of the English Channel, Purbeck, and the Isle of Wight. Grimsditch so passed is a great fence of earth, attributed to the Belgic Gauls; and here also appears the old Roman road.

Woodyates Inn is where travelling carriages make change of horses, between Salisbury and Blandford. The Batson's, Vaughan's, Coaker's, Chaffin's, Hilyer's, Templeman's, Chapman's, and Simpson's, are in the first part of this road; one of Lord Shaftesbury's, and splendid portions of the once princely mansion of Eastbury House, the Marquis of Buckingham's. Some woods of its park may be seen at a distance to the right. Others attach to the old Forest of Cranbury Chace. There was an ancient privilege claimed by the common people to hunt deer once a year in this forest. Near to this is a seat of Lord Rivers.

Blandford is situated upon the borders of the river Stour, and has been remarkable for its suffering from fire, particularly in June 1731. Latterly it hath risen to much elegance and splendour, hath good markets for provisions, and many families of fashion reside in its vicinity. A beautiful small bourn, intersected by the river, is richly decorated with the mansion and pleasure grounds of the Portman's. Damory House is a remarkable seat in this town. Others near the passage from hence are Lady Mary Blair's, the Davies's, Seymour's, and Baker's. Three miles to the right of Whitchurch is Melton Abbey, a seat of Lord Dorchester's. Near this village is a house of the Pleydell's, and at the village of Melbourn they have another seat. Dewlish, on the right of the road, is a handsome seat of the Mitchel's; others this way are the Gauding's, and the Bingham's.

A remarkable prospect opens from Dewlish Hill, (which is passed about this spot) from the coast to the Isle of Purbeck. On the right, a multiplicity of highlands, apparently almost boundless, crowd on the sight. At their extremity, towards the south, the view finishes by a regular line of uplands, called Ridgway. Over these high grounds a convenient passage for horsemen might be made, from the village of Piddleton in a more direct line to Weymouth than the post road. The amateurs of maritime views will here also experience a high gratification.

At Piddletown is a neat seat of the Cunningham's, one of the Gibbons's, and another of the Parsons's. On the left, before entering Dorchester, is the handsome seat of the Pitt's, and beneath this, attaching to the borders of the river Frome, are O'Brien's, England's, and Floyer's. Dorchester is a very neat and populous town, and is supposed to occupy the exact scite of the Roman station Durnovaria. It was also a considerable place in the time of the Saxons and Danes. Its situation partly covers a rising bank, which looks over the river and great part of the adjacent country. It hath three churches; had once a castle, and a Franciscan priory. There is a new county hall, county gaol, and barracks for the military, considerable markets for corn, and extensive trade in malting and brewing; the fame of its beer is well known. Stupendous military works of its first settlers abound in its vicinity. Poundbury camp is the first in order of those on a hill near the town, at another short distance from it is the remains of a Roman amphitheatre. This was of an oval form; on the top was a terrace and parapet, with three ways leading up to them. The area was a concave, about an acre in breadth; the shortest diameter 140 feet, the longest 220, and contained at an election, in 1705, 10,000 people. At a little farther distance from the town was Maiden Castle, another Roman camp, one of the

largest and most complete in the island: it was fortified with a treble ditch and rampart. The former has a very deep foss and high bank; it was also oval, and had two entrances defended by the capping over each other. The west part, facing the prætorium, has been assigned to the foot, and might hold 18000 men. Behind the Prætorium was the east part, for horses and carriages, and the other spaces between both for the officers. The downs of this neighbourhood are productive and healthy, and are most used for the breed and feed of sheep; of these, the immense number 170,000 are reckoned to have been kept within the distance of 8 miles from the town.

Looking from Ridgeway Hill hereafter passed, long wings of them on each hand seem folding toward the sea; within these, is a greater extent of fertilized lands than have been lately found in one view. Small ranks of houses appear from hence to intersect the centre of this, and by these the road, like a white line, directs the eye to that edge of the sea where Weymouth and Melcomb Regis are situated.

There is a way more immediately upon the sea coast to Weymouth; and by a few miles addition to this journey, the travellers can explore a more numerous and engaging succession of interesting views than the inland roads of the island any where exhibit. The beginning of this track is to pass from the post road I have before described, near Woodyates Inn. The first object to be found on it is Badbury, or High Camp, the Vindogladia of Antoninus, a summer station of the Romans and Saxons, and it was also the camp of Edward the First. This spot affords a wonderful prospect, possessing all that I described from the highlands between Salisbury and Woodyates, and a more perfect command of the sea and the shores that are thus approached than hath been yet viewed. Spilsbury Ring may be visited from hence, which was another Roman or Saxon camp. The seats near this part of the passage are Crickhill House, Ringston Hall, the Banks's, once the residence of the first Duke of Ormond, and the Grosvenor's. Near the latter an inscription testifies that in the year 1686, a set of patriotic persons of this place concerted the plan of the revolution with King William.

The wealthy and populous town of Pool may be also thus visited. From thence the most inviting thoroughfare to Weymouth is by Wareham, Corffe Castle, Nine Barrow Down, Lulworth Castle, and Cove, Adhelmstead, Kemmeridge, &c. &c. throughout all of which passage there is not only the most interesting prospects of rural and soft scenes of nature, usefully and tastefully improved, but it comprehends a long succession of her immense and most stupendous works. Wareham and Corfe Castle are remarkable for their fortifications and historic records. Nine Barrow Down is 642 feet above the sea, affording prospects of the Channel, Bay of Sandwich, and much of the variety of views I have before noticed. Lulworth Castle and Cove, the other remarkable subjects that are here passed, are in the common rides from Weymouth, and are fully described in the Booksellers' GUIDE for that place. In the heights that are passed in the latter portions of this way towards Weymouth, the best views are from Ridgeway before named, and include Portland Island, the Bay, and complete prospects of Weymouth. Hence there are many pleasing and gradual descents to the bottom of it, which border the sea: The sides of the shore so approached are computed to retreat over a margin of sand 300 feet from highwater mark, and these being firm in their texture and level in their surface, the passenger may be guided by them for some miles into Weymouth. In this passage the declining fertilized lands I described near Dorchester appear from hence, levelling by a variety of pleasant brows and slopes, while favouring Ridgway as a circular fence of full 14 miles in length, completely guards them from the north. The frith, or bay of waters, which attaches to these views, and makes Weymouth a port, appears at the same time as powerfully guarded from the ocean by the white cliffs of Purbeck, and Portland Islands. Thus the first affords commodious, pleasant, and salubrious tract, near the town of Weymouth, for its visitors to take exercise on land, and tranquil ways are on the water for those who may admire aquatic excursions. The eminences most inviting to them within the above circle, are those of Bincomb, Sutton, and Osmington, the less laborious ways will be found by the villages which give name to those hills, and those of Radipole, Broadway, and Upway. The water parties are mostly made for visits to Lulworth Cove, and the various diversity of rock scenery, which ornament the adjoining coast, Portland Island, &c.

Besides the accustomed promenade on the Esplanade and firm sands of the sea which skirt it, one of much pleasure is reached by way of the bridge and Melcomb Regis, thence to range a mile of irregular paths to some prominences that point aside the harbour. The favourite stations on this route are known by the names of Nose Point, Bingecliffs, and the Look-out. From this are perfect views of Portland Island, the vast line of perpendicular cliffs that edge the bay eastward, and many subjects that I described in my coast way hither. The more inland prospect appears from hence principally occupied with Ridgeway, in more regular order than heretofore seen. Passing by these within a little length to the walk, the ruins of Weymouth or Sandsfoot Castle, which was built by Henry the Eighth. Another pleasant walk is made from Melcomb over an eminence which is north of the above, by a seat of the Buxton's, to the village of Wyke. From this the views are found to lengthen over a vast line of the shore toward Lyme Regis, and many high points of land that appear stretching out of the more western coasts of Devonshire. Arrived thus at the small village of Wyke, the traveller finds a plain and easy passage to the various curiosities of Portland Island.

This island is described to have greatly suffered from the encroachments of the Danes and Saxons. At the termination of their hostilities it became part of the possession of the Bishop of Winchester. It is in many parts highly decorated with large rock scenery, and hath many interesting remains of ancient art. Of the latter was a castle, founded by Henry VIII. to defend the entrance to Weymouth harbour. Chesilton is its principal village. The prospects from the highest parts of this island are immense, extending from east to west through a circuitous line of coast near 50 leagues. The town of Weymouth, like that of Melcomb Regis, is situated at the mouth of the small river Wey, the channel of which is their only separation. They however once boasted distinct privileges, and rivalled each other, until for the common interest of both, they were united by act of parliament. It hath a considerable coasting trade, much commerce with the islands of Jersey, Guernsey, and the French coast. As the neighbourhood of this town was found to produce the best situations for agreeable and healthful exercises, and had such a convenient shore of even sands for the use of sea bathers, it was soon marked for a fashionable summer's retreat; and our most gracious sovereign having for so many seasons honoured it with his residence, it boasts a grandeur hardly to be equalled *.

The first part of my coastward ways that are westward of Weymouth passes near to the village of Checkerell, before described, to Portisham, Abbotsbury, and from thence to pass to the post road at Bridport. Abbotsbury is famous for its vast abbey, first founded by Orcus, steward of the household of King Canute. Part of its gates and other outbuildings, with some of the conventical church may be still found. An ancient fortification was near it. The land and sea mark of St. Catherine's Chapel is considered a curious remnant of antiquity. A short way farther on this coast is a small seat of the Earl of Ilchester's. The swannery here is a remarkable curiosity; it is said this swannery once consisted of 7000 birds, natives of the spot; they have been lately reckoned at 1000. Passing from these subjects, a convenient road leads again to the post road between Dorchester and Bridport. Another more direct way to the latter tract is found by passing immediately from Weymouth to the pleasant village of Upway, Martinstone, and

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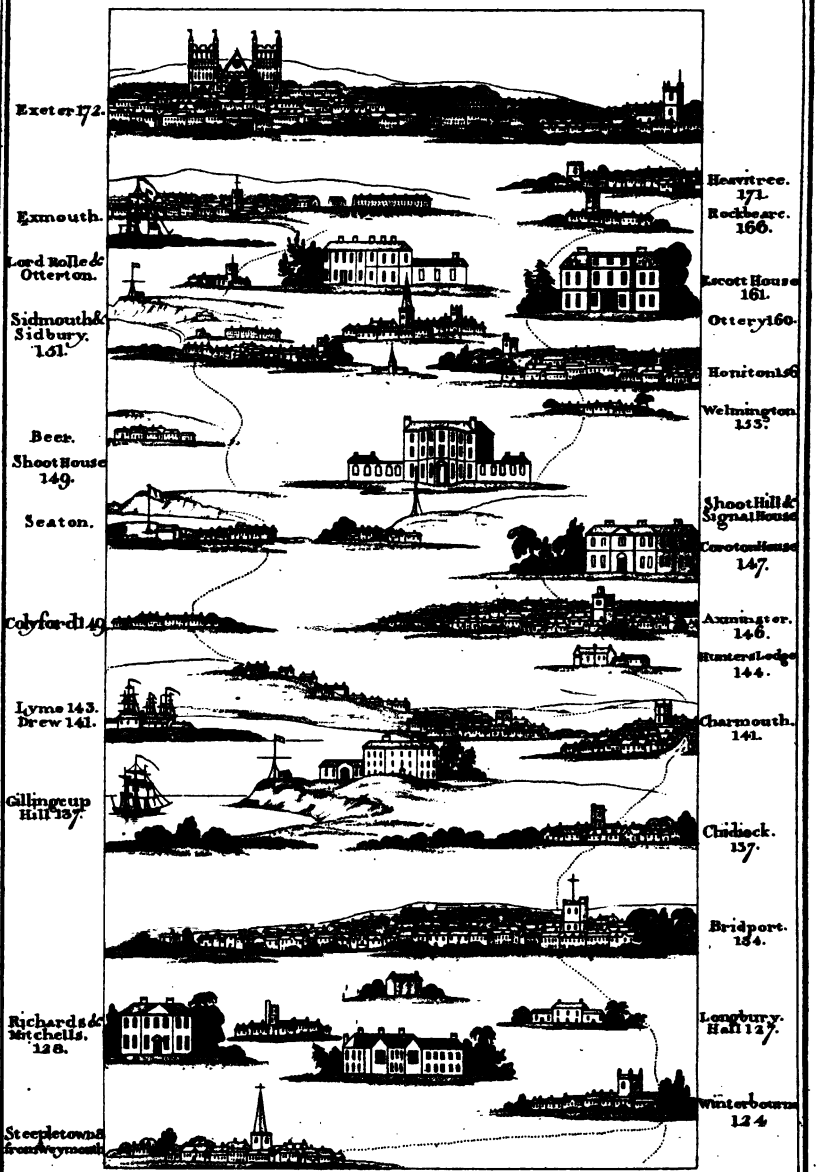
* It may be useful to observe that the visitors of Weymouth who may engage for excursions to the more distant curiosities of Dorchester recently described, will find it particularly interesting to prolong their ride from thence to Cerne Down and Revels Hill. Both of these are in the beginning of the direct way from Dorchester to Sherborne, whence is a complete view over the western levels of the country, and that of Somersetshire, the Bristol Channel, and other similar views, to those at Lambert's Castle, to which the reader will be directed in my Guide from hence to Bridport.

Directions to the more minute subjects of curiosity about Weymouth, customs of the place, with other useful information, is provided at the different libraries.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Steeple-town to Winterborne, where they again meet the great post road. Some heights are passed at the beginning of the stage, where are good prospects of the Isle of Portland, the sea coast, and a sight of Dorchester. Downs and bourns, to a considerable extent, succeed; and there are several druidical monuments, such as have been before described, attract the attention near Winterbourn Abbey, in the latter way to Bridport. At Upway are seats of the Estridge's, Weld's, and Gould's.

Passing Langbury Hutt there is another pleasing variety of high smooth ridges, and as the road ingeniously winds its way on the brows and breasts of those, a country is viewed that exhibits many grotesque and delightful vales. In the village of Upway, passed this way, are the seats of the Estridge's, Weld's, and Gould's. Near the direct passage from Dorchester to this place are seats of the Churchill's, Damer's, Brown's, Sydling's, and Sir T. Smith's, Bart. Amidst those parts of the undulating vallies above noticed, which are first viewed in the passage from Langbury Hutt, are the Mitchel's and Richardson's. Near the entrance to Bridport, on the left is a neat house of the Sheriff's. Other seats in the vicinity of the town are the Fowler's, Fawcett's, Beadscomb's, and Down's. Immense hills branch several ways aside those lowlands, or shoot from them, into immense shapes and outlines that fill the distances. The most remarkable are called Pilson, Lewson, Blackdown, and Lambert's Castle Hills, &c. From some of these elevations in favourable weather are the most diversified gratifying stations, whence the astonished spectator views both seas, and hath a faint prospect of some of the borders of Wales.

Bridport is situated upon the river Brit. It was a chief town of the Saxons, who had a mint here: it is nearly in the form of a cross, spacious, and well built, containing as many inhabitants of fortune and fashion as are in any town of its size in the west of England. This distinction hath been partly acquired by their spirited exertions in the manufactory of twine, cordage, nets, &c. and in the spinning and weaving of flax. In the reign of Henry VIII. cordage was here provided for the whole English navy. This trade still flourishes in an important degree. A priory was at St. John's, the east end of the town; at the west was an hospital. The key or harbour for vessels is about a mile from the town. On the point of a hill which is conspicuous on the left of the way from hence (Gollincup) are the apparatus for one of the stations appointed at proper distances throughout all this coast, for communicating intelligence by signals to the naval commanders of the several ports. At Charmouth the Danes are represented to have twice landed, and both times to have defeated the English; one in 833, and in 840; and here Charles II. had a narrow escape in his attempt to pass to France, after the battle of Worcester. It is also near the coast, and, like Lyme Regis*, it hath much resort in summer by such as visit the sea for bathing. The river Char empties itself into the sea, a short way from the town. The cliffs hereabouts abound with the skeletons of fish and other animals in a fossil state, which with other curious productions of the kind are collected and preserved by a native of the place, for the accommodation of the curious. The handsome seat seen to the left of this is Drew's.

Axminster is situated near the river Axe, the borders of which are here seen to expand to a great breadth of richly variegated slopes and vallies, and many families of fashion and consequence have taken up their residence thereon; of these are the Milford's, Tucker's, and Drake's. The church is a large plain structure, and is famous for some Gothic tombs, said to commemorate certain noble Danes slain in battle. A minster was erected here by Athelstan; it hath some trade in carpet weaving, and some genteel dwellings.

Honiton is mostly one street, broad, well built, and paved; the parish church rests upon the breast of a hill, half a mile from the town, in which there is a neat modern chapel erected in 1743. It has a good charity school, and an hospital for four lepers, was founded by one Chard, an abbot, which is now converted to the use of the poor. The list of its members of parliament began in the reign of Edward I. Here was the first serge manufactory in all the county, but it hath latterly given more employment to the

* For account of Lyme, see coast way through the Western borders of Devonshire.

manufacturers of lace. A dreadful fire happened in this town on the 19th of July, 1747, by which three parts of it were reduced to ashes, and the damage was computed at 43,000 *l.*!

Whilst journeying from the town of Honiton, the river Otter is observed gracefully intersecting the valley near the road, whence are also seen the seats of the Flood's, Watts's, Cook's, Drew's, Bridge's, Simcoe's, and Lord Graves's. At the small town of Ottery St. Mary, that appears on the left, there are several vestiges of antiquity, particularly in its church, a house inhabited by the celebrated but unfortunate Sir Walter Raleigh, and the convention room of Oliver Cromwell. At the beginning of the uplands that bear the road out of view of the river Otter, is Escot House, Sir John Kennaway's. This was lately the estate of Sir George Young, Bart. who expended great sums in the laudable but unsuccessful attempt to establish a woollen manufactory in his neighbourhood. The summits of the heights near Rockbere that is next passed, develope another of those extensive tracts of distant country that so often characterize and give celebrity to the landscapes in this part of the country. Among other many coloured mountains the broad blue ridges of Dartmoor particularly display themselves from this spot.

Those who are journeying to Seaton or Sidmouth, and would prefer this inland road to the one that I have to describe, as adjoining the sea coast, will find a cross way leading by the river Axe; and a short way from this is one that crosses to the handsome seat of Sir William Delapole, Bart. In this direction may be also visited the ruins of Calcomb Castle, and Colycomb Church (remarkable for its neat architecture) another also passes from the town of Honiton, by Sidford, to Sidmouth. On the first part of this route the road is elevated unto the summit of the broad smooth hill, where is another most commanding prospect, shewing much of the interior of Devonshire. The coast hitherto overlooked, whilst some of the eminences lately passed, acquire much additional grandeur from this view of them. At other parts, this road traverses with the river Sid throughout a close umbrageous valley. And other grassy summits, terrace like, partially range along the whole to the edge of the sea, where Sidmouth is situated.

Most of the latter part of the post road from Rochbere just named, to Exeter, is an even and thickly enclosed country. The principal seats near it are Sir John Duntze's, Nichols's, Scotford's, and Bevis's.

COAST WAY FROM LYME REGIS, THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH COAST OF DORSETSHIRE.

LYME REGIS is only a pleasant walk from the village of Charmouth, that I have just now described. Its situation is within what the mariners call the *Bite* of the great Western Bay, and thus it affords the inhabitants a vast prospect upon the immense headlands, and vast screens of rock scenery that hem its circle*. The parts of the town nearest the sea are crowded, but the residence of the fashionable inhabitants and visitors have most delightful situations upon the small ridges that border it, and overlook the water. The cobb, or pier, which forms the harbour for vessels here is considered one of the most immense of the kind in the kingdom. According to early accounts, the harbour here being neither creek, bay, nor river, vast rocks were weighed with empty casks from the bottom of the sea. Thus, in times immemorial, the harbour was first formed; it hath often been enlarged, and there hath lately been expended upon it the immense sum of 10,000*l.*

* This is terminated by the Berry Head, near Plymouth, on one hand, and the island of Portland on the other.

Attaching to the town westward is the tasteful premises of the Load's, and passing that is Colonel Williams's; another, near the borders of the river Axe, is the Hall's, near to the inconsiderable village of Axmouth. That river may be ferried direct to Seaton, another place of considerable resort in summer for the convenience of bathing; and much good building hath been lately added to it. This place, as well as Axmouth and Sidmouth, hereafter passed, are all said to have been good sea-ports until the harbour became choaked with sand. It is well worthy the stranger's labour if he walk hence by the edge of the cliffs that lie westward of this village, and thus obtain views of a succession of the noblest rock scenery on this part of the coast.

The village of Beer is only of small consideration, being mostly inhabited by poor fishermen, whose dependance is in serving with fish the inland towns of this county. The country which is passed between this and Sidmouth (especially if some other small deviations are made from the direct way) will be found greatly interesting to the eye; for besides the remarkable rocky scenery that is next to the sea, there are numberless vast dents and chasms marking the nearer hills: and there is such a pleasing variation in the dress and colouring of others that are more distant, as are always approved or pleasing in good landscapes. Another such alteration from the direct track of the road as I described in the inland way, near Axmouth, will also take the traveller to Shute House, Colycomb, &c.

Sidmouth hath nearly the same distinction as Lime Regis for the resort of gay and fashionable company. It hath complete accommodation for the sea bathers, and the amusements of balls, assemblies, public promonades, &c. At this place was formerly an alien priory.

At the village of Ottorton, so passed, are traces of the ancient mansion of Jakes's, and here was once a priory of black monks. The estate is now Lord Rolle's, who has a seat a short way on the right from it.

Exmouth was known to the Romans, and was once defended with a castle. It is the most considerable resort of company on this coast. Many of the principal lodging houses, libraries, &c. &c. are inconveniently situated among the early mean buildings of the place; but there is a handsome line of fashionable houses lately erected upon a distant eminence that faces the sea, and other small ranges skirt the river, that have pleasant and agreeable appearances. Upon a smooth terrace, so facing the sea, is the common promenade of the company, and it affords them at the same time very extensive coast and sea views. The broad smooth surface of the great river Ex, the grand old mansion of Powderham Castle, and its extensive plantations, are subjects that salute the eye with most force from hence. Among other attractions, are the dwellings and rich improvements of Earl Lisbourne, and the Rev. Mr. Swete's; above all, the vast heights of Dartmoore spread their aerial tints in many a line of beauty.

EXETER, a city, and the principal in this county, it is also the see of a bishop, which was translated to this place from Crediton, by Edward the Confessor, and takes its name from the river Ex. It was called Isca, by Ptolomy, Isca Dunmoniorum, by Antonine, in his Itinerary; and Monkton, from the multitude of monks that formerly resided there. The town, which is situate on a rising ground, together with its suburbs, is two miles in circumference; it has six gates and four principal streets, which all meet in the center of the city, commonly though corruptly called Carfox, for *Quartre voys*, that is to say, four ways, and divide the whole into four quarters.

There are twenty churches in the city and suburbs, exclusive of chapels and dissenting meetings. The cathedral, which is dedicated to St. Peter, is a very curious magnificent gothic structure, vaulted throughout, 350 feet in length, and 75 in breadth; notwithstanding it was 400 years in building, before it was entirely finished, it looks as uniform as if it had been the work of one man only, and is a proof our ancestors knew as well how to design and execute as the moderns.

This city hath had divers charters granted or confirmed by most of our monarchs, many of whom have honoured it with their presence. It was made a mayor town in the reign of King John, and a county of itself by King Henry VIII. who made it their residence, as did afterwards the Earls and Dukes of Cornwall, to whom it has appertained ever since. The castle is at present greatly decayed, a part of it is however still reserved, for the assizes, quarter sessions, and county courts, together with a chapel. Here is a pleasant prospect from an elevated terrace walk, with a double row of elms. Upwards

of forty years ago the inhabitants, by the aid of an Act of Parliament, perfected a work they had begun no less than 100 years before, and cut through some dams, and by contrivance of sluices and gates, vessels of 500 tons burthen can now come up to their key. It is governed by a mayor, twenty-four aldermen, and a recorder. It had anciently a mint; and in the reign of William III. many pieces of silver were coined, which may be known by the letter E under the king's bust.

The bridge which runs over the river Ex is of great length. The city is well supplied with water, brought from parts adjacent in pipes, to several conduits, one whereof was erected by William Duke, mayor of the city, in the reign of Henry IV.

The beginning of the passage from Exeter to Topsham, Newton Bushel, and Totness, will be found uncommonly agreeable to the traveller, who delights to look on extensive distant ways; through several miles so passed it tracks a succession of ridge lands which line the west borders of the vale of Ex. Next to these it traverses some summits that join to Dartmoor one way, and another way connect themselves to those I lately viewed and noticed at Exmouth. Looking back from these summits, the farther borders of this river are completely overlooked, as also the towns of Topsham and Exmouth, the village of Lymstone, the improved premises of Lord Heathfield's, Sir A. Hamilton's the Baring's, &c. &c. From some other prominent spots, much space of the sea also opens to the prospect, and many picturesque improvements that escaped the eye in the former views of Lord Lisbourne's, Lord Courtney's, and the Rev Mr. Swete's. At other parts, attaching to this road, are Hall Down House, the Palk's, the Parker's, Cox's, Cook's, Templer's, and the striking object of Castle Laurence, erected in honour of General Laurence. At Chudleigh, there are some considerable manufactories of cloth, good inns, and several houses of fashion. Here was anciently a seat of a Bishop of Exeter, and it gives title of Baron to the noble family of Clifford. High Torrocks, seen in this passage, appertain to the forest of Dartmoor; these are vast protuberances of stone that issue from some pointed prominences of Dartmoor, are used as sea marks to mariners, and are amusing and sometimes useful objects to those that travel the vast wilds near them. This moor is estimated at 20 miles in length, and includes 100,000 acres. In some of this space is good pasturage for cattle; rich mines are in some others of it, and it gives birth to the several rivers Tavey, Plym, Dart, Lyd, and the Oke, by which its springs are directed for both channels.

The seats attaching to the road from Chudleigh, are the handsome premises of Lord Clifford, the Templer's, and Knole's.

Newton Bushel is a populous market town, and remarkable for providing sailors for the Greenland and other fishing vessels that use the neighbouring ports.

At leaving Exeter a bye road passes the noble premises of Powderham Castle, Star Cross, &c. to the sea; another also passes from Halldown Hill near the 178 mile stone, that is the direct way from Exeter to Teignmouth on the same coast. A way may be also made by continuing along the banks of the Teign river from Newton Bushel to the last part of the passage which passes Ford or Feord Abbey, another seat of the ancient family of Courtney. Other seats in the vicinity of this are the Ray's and Sir Thomas Carew's. The way from Newton Bushel to Totness is often uneven and obscured by the multitudes of small hills that every way over run this country; but at a height, called Broad Ridge, and some others that are adjacent to the road, the traveller may be indulged by some most gratifying views of the distant country. Seats in this latter passage are the Baker's, and the Duke of Somerset's.

Totness is the most ancient borough in this county, a wealthy and fashionable place, and hath very considerable manufactories in the woollen trade. It hath had many alterations from the Romans, Saxons, Danes, and Normans, was formerly walled in, and had four gates, had also a strong castle, raised upon an immense natural or artificial mound; of these last works, something is still visible, and the famous foss-way which ran through the kingdom from them is still to be traced. Abundance of salmon and salmon-peel are taken from the river Dart at this place, and it is otherwise very plentifully served with all kinds of provisions; it had once a priory, and sent members to Parliament so early as Edward I. At the first part of the passage from hence a vast circle of the distant heights of Dartmoor and other eminences sometimes draw the attention. At another part, we are called to observe the rapid streams of the river just named, amusingly courseing through some plains beneath them. Others of the lands this way are embellished with fas-

hionable dwellings, the most considerable of these are the Adams's, Cary's, Lear's, Palk's, and Vowel's.

During a short rest for the change of horses at the inns of Ivey Bridge next passed, the striking rock scenery, cataracts, &c. that are on the river Erme will amuse the traveller. The principal seats next passed are Shepherd's, Woolicombe's, Sir F. Roger's, Treby's, and coming near Plympton, the road passes some ornamental buildings, on the left, which mark the bounds of the handsome demesnes of Lord Borringdon. Plympton was made a borough in the reign of Edward III. and there are ruins of a castle near the road, which was the seat of an earl of Devon. The town hath considerable population, some manufactories, and hath good public buildings. Other seats approached in the latter part of the way to Plymouth, are the Archer's, Clark's, and Culme's. Approaching to the town, its principal public buildings hastily open to the eye, and many other busy scenes of art and nature as suddenly rush upon it. At one view the river Plym is stretching to its embraces, with the floods of the Tamar. These are edged and spotted with woods, with small bays of water, beds of sand, islands, rocks, and fortifications, amidst which the ships and boats of all sizes appear resting on the scene, or artfully measuring the intricate ways which intersect it; in other views the scene is less variegated, and less broken, woods, lawns, and dimpled vales, serenely rest on this, and it is much occupied with the tasteful and calm retirements of the wealthy natives of Plymouth, superannuated officers, &c. &c.

CONTINUATION OF THE

COAST WAY FROM EXETER,

THROUGH

DAWLISH, TEIGNMOUTH, BRIXHAM, DARTMOUTH, &c. TO PLYMOUTH.

PASSING the river Ex by a convenient ferry across Exmouth, some subjects I noticed near Exeter, are again looked upon. There is afterwards a constant succession of large elevations, big channels, and sunken plains. Thus the roads are sometimes irksome to travellers with carriages, but the horseman and foot passenger makes his way over them with ease, and from some of his stations, all the mountain scenery which I described in the inward ways of the county, agreeably greet the eye in many a handsome form and much new dress; the less aspiring hills that edge the coast, in this passage upon it have often agreeable shapes, and smooth coverings of green herbage, but their terminations next the sea are sudden and terrible, and being fantastically lacerated with age, the lashings of the waves, or other unaccountable causes, they produce all the forms an enthusiastic admirer of such works can suggest, where the countless vales which divide them have their termination; and beneath some of these cliffs there is a broad beach of firm smooth sand, and near such a situation is the village of Dawlish and the town of Teignmouth. The several roads that lead to these and others of this coast are remarkable for their luxuriant fences, richly shaded with the over-hanging branches of the fruit orchards, and thus the numerous visitors find the most convenient retirements for their amusing and wholesome exercises. At Dawlish was an antient seat of the Bishop of Exeter. Teignmouth is a place of considerable size, and having like Exmouth a close inland bay, is greatly used by coal vessels that import that article from Wales for the use of the inhabitants of the country near it; it hath also a considerable export trade.

Torbay is computed at 12 miles in circuit. The Prince of Orange, afterwards King William IIId. landed here; and here it is said the Emperor Vespasian landed, when he came against Arviragus, King of Britain. This placid bay is guarded with immense ridges of pointed head-land rocks, whose tremendous aspect over look the sea, and stretching their stoney arms to the wide marine ways, presents at once protection and defence. Its inward borders are otherways lined with numerous gun batteries that guard the various vessels, which choice or necessity may impel into her roads.

Brixham is a respectable fishing town, and employs several vessels in that and other branches of the coasting trade. Laymen Well in this neighbourhood, is a curiosity that demands the attention of the most inquisitive naturalist, and is besides a phenomenon so extraordinary in its nature, as to ebb and flow hourly.

Dartmouth is a place of very considerable consequence, situated where the river Dart enters the sea. Its trade is so considerable in the fisheries of this coast, and for foreign merchandize, that from 3 to 4000 hands are lately computed to have been employed in it. The entrance to the harbour is deep and narrow, and is high walled, with high perpendicular rocks; without these, near the entrance, is a strong fort; opposite the town is the bason of sufficient depth and breadth for 500 sail of vessels to ride in perfect safety.

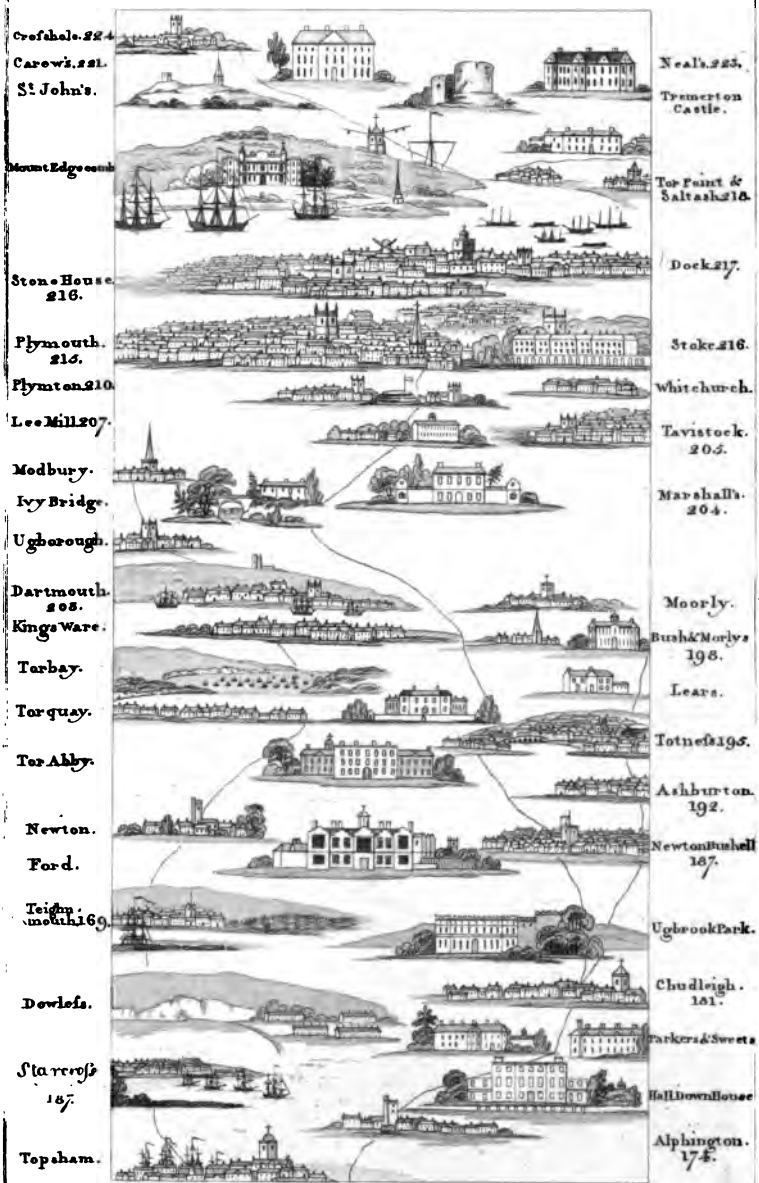
One of its churches is singularly situated on a hill above the town, the tower of which sixty-nine feet in height, serves as a sea mark. In the reign of Richard the Ist, this town was burnt by the French; in the civil wars it was besieged and taken by General Fairfax; in the year 1704, Monsieur Chastel, a French Captain who had burnt Plymouth, made a descent here, but was made a prisoner by the bravery of the natives. The first springs of the river Dart are about 20 miles above the town, within the forest of Dartmoor; through the part of this river which reaches from Ashburton to Totness, it hath, like the neighbouring streams of Teign and Ex, a mazey shaded passage amidst a countless succession of little hills of every character; at Totness, where it becomes navigable, its border grows sometimes more spacious, and is here and there ornamented with red-sand or limestone rock, like some of the most beautiful parts of the rivers Wye and Usk, in Monmouthshire, &c. and it is at other places like them thickly decked with fruit orchards, grassey meads, and strong enclosures of arable lands. As this river approaches Dartmouth, and where it lapses to the sea, the higher lands raise and expand its scenery, finally to close in the best characters that I have hitherto sketched of the extreme sea coast. In the direct way from Dartmouth into the line of the inland post road to Plymouth, is other interesting rock scenery, with good accompaniments to them, and those who have travelled through the more western parts of South Wales, will soon perceive the resemblance this bears to it; at Geary Bridge where its character is most striking, my memory was immediately possessed with the images that were impressed upon my mind when I traversed the courses of the rivers Gwayn, Tivey, and Ayron, which influx from the Welch borders to Cardigan Bay.* The villages in this direction to Plymouth, are Morleigh, Modbury, and Ugborough one way, another is by Yealmpton and Brixton, the first joins the great post road which I have before passed at Ivey Bridge, the latter at Plympton Earl.

Plymouth is situated between the rivers Plym and Tamer just before their influx into the British Channel, it hath latterly risen from a mere fishing town, to become the largest in the county, and uniting with what is called Plymouth Dock, form together one of the principal naval magazines in the kingdom. Its harbours are of sufficient magnitude to contain 1000 sail of ships; its principal bays are those of Hamoaze and Catwater, each of which, with the towns annexed, are every way fortified with innumerable bastians, forts, and batteries, of such artful contrivance and immense labour, as seem to warrant their security against any hostile power of the world. In war time many outward bound convoys rendezvous here, and homeward bound ships also put in for pilots to conduct them through the channel. The town of Plymouth is divided into four parts, which, till they had a mayor, were governed by as many captains; it is well supplied with fresh water, which was brought hither a distance of 7 miles, at the expence of Sir Francis Drake, who was born here. In the reign of Edward the IIId. the town was burnt by the French, again in Henry IV. 600 houses were burnt by the same enemy. During the civil wars, this place adhered to the parliament. At the Restoration Charles the IId. built a fort between the sea and the town, as well to defend the port as to awe the inhabitants. This is a curiosity to strangers, and by a visit here, he obtains comprehensive prospects of its immense harbour, St. Nicholas's Island, the grand entrance to Plymouth Sound, Mount Edgecumbe, and a most extensive and variegated circle of distant shores and inland countries. It had formerly a priory, hath two handsome churches,

* See Picturesque Guide through Wales, page 186—191—199.

BRIXHAM from TORBAY.

To M.r W. Anderson this Plate is inscribed by his obliged Serv.t
J. Baker.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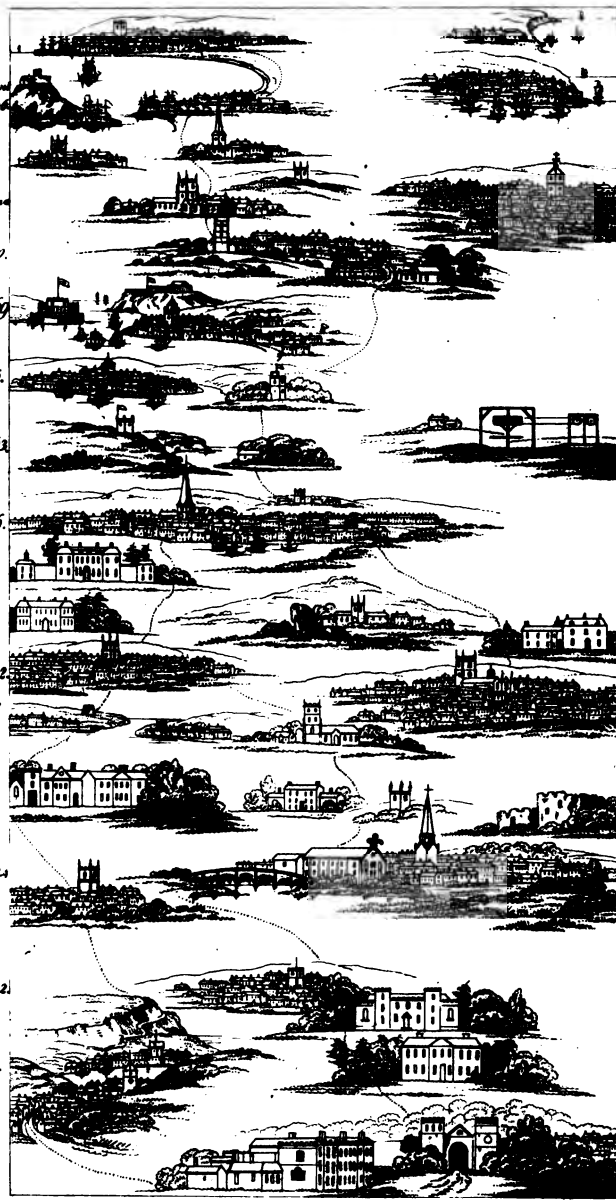
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St L. Cyleve
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and many meetings of dissenters. Between Plymouth and Dock is Stoke, commonly called Stone-House, at which are most noble military hospitals and barracks for the marines. Plymouth Dock is named after its wet and dry docks, which were planned in the reign of William the IIId. and near here are the gun-wharfs, sail-wharfs, large store-houses and dwellings of the different officers of government, barracks, &c. &c.

CONTINUATION OF THE

WESTERN ROAD FROM PLYMOUTH TO TRURO,

AND A

COAST WAY THITHER BY EAST AND WEST LOOE, &c.

PASSING the Tamar to Cornwall, by what is called Crimble Passage, the beautiful seat of Mount Edgecumbe, the property of the Earl so called, appears on the left, and on the heights above is Maker Tower, which is used as a signal station, and by running poles from its summit hung with different numbers of balls, or by hoisting coloured flags, communications are made to the Port Admiral. From these heights are other interesting coast views, with the noted rocks of Ramhead and Edistone Light-house. This latter subject is constructed upon a firm body of solid rock, to the height of 80 feet above its base. The tides of the river Tamar that were just now left for these observations, appear from this view to form an immense lake, where in time of war are the moorings of numberless guard-ships, prison-ships, &c. and in peace many of the navy of England are laid up in ordinary. This river hath its rise on a mountain called Shorston Moor. The first springs of the river Terrage arise almost from the same spot, and taking a northern track, empties itself into the Bristol channel. The first passeth thence with slow and easy pace, and for 40 miles forms the boundary of Cornwall and Devon. The courses of the latter are particularly rapid, hence arises the vulgar observation, that "Terrage runs away while Tamer lies a sleep." The town of Saltash appears at the extremity of the lake (Hamoaze) just noticed. The principal among the agreeable possessions of fashion contiguous, and that appear verging toward the edge of these waters, are Lord Graves's, the Dickinson's, Carew's, Nichols's, Mayo's, and Bennet's. Torpoint, St. Antony's, and Croft Hole, are the villages on the passage from hence. Trementon Castle was the residence and property of a former Duke of Cornwall; here is a vast court beneath the keep, which appears in the plan, measuring three quarters of an acre. The seats passed aside the road between Port Elliot and Leskeard, are Sir Lionel Copely's, and the Glanville's.

Leskeard is one of the principal towns of the county, and was antiently fortified, with a castle, remains of which were here in the time of Leland. It hath much trade in leather, large markets, and many families of fashion and wealth.

In the way to Launceston from hence, a stone obelisk near the road on the left, direct to the premises of Lord Camelford; Lostormal or Restormal Castle, which is seen on the right, was another of the principal houses of the Earls of Cornwall, it stands on a rocky knole, which like the hill at entering, and another at the departure from Lestwithiel, over look a most picturesque valley that attaches to the river Fowey and this town. This castle hath great remains of its ruinated walls and entrenched earth works still entire, near it is a seat of the Hext's. Lestwithiel was the Roman station Uxela, and there was one of their antient military ways passed from it by Castle Doar (an ancient camp) to Fowey, and passing another direction toward Bodmyn, is supposed to have reached both seas. It is a considerable market town, and hath several good inns. The principal building which appears in the engraved plan, embellished with the Crest of Feathers, is a remarkable antiquity, and is often called the Parliament House, being long used by the Juries of this county, who were obliged by their Charters to assemble Parliaments or Courts of Stannery, of which the Lord Warden is Judge, and hath power to summon the Jurors. The presentments of such Jurors have been printed and stiled Acts of Parliament.

Beneath the bleak hill of Lanlevero, on which the church is situated, in a thick shelter of wood is Lanlevero Rectory, the Kendals, hence is a strange succession of barren clifted hills; but these surmounted, the prospects succeeding are beautifully varied with rocky coasts, small intricate bays and inland vales; at one spot are the ample premises of a country yeoman or wealthy farmer, surrounded with agricultural improvements; at others, it is gaily wild, with intersections of uncultivated wastes, fruit orchards, small hills, rocks, moors, and the mean habitations of sailors and peasants. At a few miles travel from hence, is a seat of the Carlyon's, and near this, the rich mines of this county are first approached, they consist principally of copper and tin, of which there is greater production than from any nation on earth; they are supposed to have been first worked by the Britons in the time of the Romans, and that the Phœnicians had large dealings with the inhabitants of this country for tin; of this, such tin as is in the stream works are most valued; these works imply the streaming on the surface where the mine or particles of the tin are found in the loose earth that hath gathered between the hills; others are called Lode works, and are such as reach far into the bowels of the earth, from whence the mine is raised by means of shafts. Copper is raised by the same means, and principally abounds with the tin, running together in a parallel with it. At the village of St. Blaezey, which is passed in this stage, there is a stone seven feet and a half high, it is inscribed on both sides, and is supposed to have been set as a memorial how far the Saxons penetrated westward. Seats near the entrance to St. Austle are, the Penrises and Sauls. St. Austle hath a handsome Gothic Church, and is very populous in shops and inns, being greatly used as a market for miners.

Besides a coast way which I shall here take occasion to describe, lying southward of that I have now passed, a circuitous cross way passes also from it between Plymouth and Liskeard, by which a visit may be made to the agreeable reclused village of St. Germains, and the seat of Port Elliott, Lord Elliott's, and St. Germain's Priory. The river Tidi which rises about eight miles west-south-west of Launceston, joins the Liner here, the last of which conducts the tides of Tamar to it; thus conveyance is made each day to Plymouth in a passage boat. The village is considered the largest of the county, and sends members to parliament. The Conventional Church is used by the parishioners. The Priory is converted into a seat, and fitted up as above. Port Elliott owes its name to a Bishop of Auzeree, who extirpated the Pelagian Heresy, to whose memory a Priory of secular Canons was founded, and which was erected into a bishopric in the year 981.

Returning from hence to the more direct coast way, the road is through Seaton to East Looe, &c. and by my following directions will be found 14 miles nearer to St. Austle, Truro, &c. &c. than that commonly used by Leskeard and Lestwithiel, with the advantage of surveying a shore that abounds with romantic and rare beauties, near its commencement, there is the greatest extent of those Alpine prospects so peculiar to this part of the county. East and West Looe are situated near the opening of a recluse valley, which is watered by the current of the Looe, the land chasm or channel of which hastily ushers its streams from the heights of St. Clare to the sea.

The houses of East Looe are partly crowded upon a narrow margin of level land on the east side of such waters, and are partly fixed on the lower ledges of a stony promontory, which rises in that direction over it; it consists principally of cottages and some large old fashioned dwellings, such as formerly accommodated the merchants and numerous fishermen that were once employed in it. An inconvenient bridge of 150 yards in length, and 10 arches, connects this to the smaller village of West Looe; this is principally a small street running with an inlet from the contiguous heights to such river, and through this the road continues to Fowey. Both these places have the privilege of sending members to parliament. Between Looe and Fowey is the seat of Sir John Trelawney, Bart.

The town of Fowey hath its name from a river, which, from the mountain Altarnam just named, courses the country for 26 miles to this place. Its harbour is spacious, and hath always maintained a principal trade. According to Mr. Carew, it had once 60 sail of ships belonging to it, 47 of which were sent to the siege of Calais. In the reign of Edward III. they rescued several ships of Rye from distress, for which generosity the town was made a member of one of the Cinque Ports. King Edward the IVth caused two towers to be erected at the entrance of the harbour for its safety, and in a late war there was a chain of 200 feet long, constructed to secure the entrance of the

harbour. It is thus described by Leland, " a market towe, walled defendably to the se cost and hath gates also; yn the town ys but one chyrche but the howses of the towne be well buylded of stone, an yl enhabited. At entery of the havon on the west side is a blockke houwse and a chapel, also there is on the same syd a towre with ordinans for the defens of the haven. At the east syde of the haven's mouth stondith a town for the defens thereof, and a chappel of St. Savyor a little above the same. By the town stondith a fisher villiage, cawled Polmon. At the west point of the haven a blokhouse, a little higher on this point of the hille is a chapel of St. Catarine, and under the root of this hille, a litle withyn the haven's mouth, is a litle bay or creke, bearing the name of Catarine. About a quarter of a mile uppe on the west of Fowey haven is a square towre of stone for the defence of the haven, and a little above this towre, on the same side, is Fowey town, lying along the shore, and builded on the side of a great slaty rok kind hill." The whole or a part of these subjects may be still regularly traced, and form together a very interesting succession of pleasing and entertaining scenery. It hath a fine old church, an hospital and free school, many wealthy inhabitants, inns, and plentiful markets.

Charlestown is a considerable place of trade, a short way farther upon this coast, which hath been lately formed from the speculation of the merchants of this country, as a fishing town, and for the shipping of the produce of the great tin mines, for which this country is so particularly noticed, and which are first discovered near to the spot where this road again falls into the post and coach way from Plymouth Dock, to Falmouth, &c. which I lately passed.

The old market town of Grampound so passed, is little used but by travellers and the dealers in retail provisions, and the country for some way hath a squallid complexion, and is barren of antiquities or picturesque scenery. Seats thus reached are the Denithorn's, Sir Cæsar Hawkins's, the Vivian's, and the Andrews's, near the two last, especially about Trevillian, the traveller finds the country change. Its character and an agreeable variety of landscape beauties, open in different directions upon his eye *.

Truro is the most fashionable and wealthy town of this county, and contains some very handsome streets, and other elegant buildings. It is also the principal place for stamping and exporting their blocks of tin and copper ore. It is situated on a branch of the port of Falmouth, and the conflux of two rivers that almost encompass the town. It was first incorporated by King John. Camen Tin Stream will be passed in a small valley two miles from this, the largest and most profitable work in the county. Other valleys in the way that contain similar works may be known from their sterile appearance. From the heights of the road some extensive improvements in the distance, mark the seats of Lord Falmouth and Sir William Lemon, otherwise the country, except where it is partially occupied by the fashionable residences of the rich proprietors of mine works, or the rude hovels of their rustic workmen, hath a desolate barren appearance; still the wealth which is drawn from the industry of these people, is considered equal to the best agrarian productions! Where this road descends to the valley of Carnon, the eye may have a pleasing relief from its tiresome wanderings, by resting on an easy, placid, and comprehensive view of the artificial and natural beauties of this vale. Among the first are the neat premises of the Fox's, and among the latter are the singular meanderings of its river, and smooth skreens of periodical woods that gracefully fringe its borders. Another seat this way is the Enys's.

Penryn is situated on the river Hel, it was antiently fortified and had a castle, the church too was once collegiate, and had 12 prebendaries. Branches of Falmouth harbour also stretch aside of the town, and it is otherwise watered with small rivulets, it hath a great trade in drying and vending pilchards. A way of 3 miles from hence reaches the port of Falmouth, the busiest and most extensive trading town in the county. Its harbour is so commodious, that ships of the greatest burthen come up to its quay. It is guarded by two castles, St. Maws and Pendennis, each of which was erected by order of Henry VIII.; and both have garrisons, and there is here perfect room and safety for the whole navy of England. Packets from hence regularly sail to Spain, Portugal, and the West Indies. The houses of the town are on the edge of the bay, or on

* For other descriptions of these, see view of Penealenick and other seats, provided for the Appendix from the liberality of the families of this county.

ledges of a steep precipice that overlook it; thus it hath a pleasant appearance to the numerous strangers who approach it from sea, and the inhabitants have an equal prospect of its busy course and the variegated country around. It is near the mouth of the river Fal, and is supposed to be the station of the Voluba of the ancients. Seats that are contiguous to the principal road between Penryn and Helston, are the Row's and Hodges's.

Helston is situated on the river Lo, which, near its mouth extends to a very considerable length, and is called Lo Pool. It is a very extensive market town, and like Truro, is appointed by the Stannery Court for stamping tin. The Godolphin Hills that are passed, are situated in the heart of the tin mines; the principal possessor of which was a family of that name so early as King William.

The road which passes from the town of Marazian, forms a handsome circle upon the edge of the bleak hills, and many tiresome wastes cross the views throughout the ensuing parts of this country, and they are much chequered with broken rocks, and the unprofitable eruptions of the mines; the earthern huts of the peasantry otherwise intersect its prospects; these are beset with small inclosures from the common, in which is a cow, and perhaps geese, goats, and a solitary swine, appear grazing the meagre pasture; their winter fuel of dried fern or furze, is also seen stacked within the same scanty limits, and from these displays of their industry, or the rustic pride of their habitations, we have a pleasing indication of the content and happiness of the humble possessors. Another proof arises from their settled living, I have discovered in a considerable neighbourhood throughout the west of this county, every family somehow a-kin to each other, and very few of the oldest among them had ever travelled farther than the shores of his own parish, or the nearest market town. The romantic and splendid subject of St. Michael's Mount, cannot fail to strike the traveller with singular interest and admiration; it is situated near the small fishing town of Marazian, and at high water is completely surrounded with the sea, hath been fortified, and had a considerable religious establishment upon it, it is the property of Sir John St. Aubyn, Bart. whose seat is near this passage; another that of the Duke of Leeds *.

Penzance is a wealthy town with a good harbour, that is much frequented with shipping. It was burnt in 1595, by the Spaniards, but was soon rebuilt, fortified with batteries, and was made one of the coinage towns. Here are such quantities of ore, that the veins appear at low water mark to the utmost extent of the shore. The land's end, or uttermost extremity of this island, is about 10 miles from hence. Treeve and Sennon are small villages in the direct track thither; another passage is made to it by way of St. Just, and near the latter way at Breehill, there is the most comprehensive prospect of the sea, and each return of the coast from the notable spot above named. This was called by Ptolomy, Bolerium, the Britons called it Penreghuaed, or the Promontory of Blood, and by its inhabitants it is called Penvanlas or Land's-End. The name Promontory ill describes the character of its coast, it being a point of level lowland. Now as the British appellations of places have commonly a pleasing affinity to their real situation or form, a doubt may be thence hazarded whether what is now such end of the land is not a late encroachment upon the ancient boundary of the sea. The most western promontory or headland is called Cape Cornwall, and is near the village of St. Just. Near this hath been a fortification or chapel, and a large romantic amphitheatre; and at the neighbouring parish of Morvas was a regular Danish entrenchment, whilst in every way of the neighbourhood (except on the level above noticed) there is some sepulchral, druidical, or other monument of antiquity; many great bodies of cloven rocks lie half concealed in the rough tides that roll in so many directions to this shore, and large heads of many others appear upon the bosom of this distant deep. Among the latter may be reckoned what are called the Scilly Islands, "they are frightful to mariners, and many a tall ship lies buried at their feet!"

* For other description of these, see Appendix

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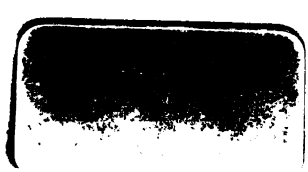
C. WHITTINGHAM, *Printer*, Dean Street, Fetter Lane.